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Topic 1. Sustainability of current and future forestry operations in NSW

I do not believe that NSW forestry operations are sustainable. You cannot keep chopping down our native forests. There must be no more losses of old growth forest or good quality biodiverse forests. Many of our species, birds and animals rely on hollows created by old trees. With the loss of old trees comes the loss of many of our iconic species. Not only are their homes destroyed but their food sources are destroyed with it leading to a huge loss of animals and birds.

174 species of animals and birds rely on hollows from old trees for their survival.

Native forest logging also adversely effects the streams and waterways within the forests and in the surrounding areas and polluting the rivers and streams. Native forest logging also dries out forests making the surrounding areas more susceptible to fires and opening up to the penetration of weeds.

Topic 2. Environmental and cultural values of forests, including threatened species and Aboriginal cultural heritage values

We need our forests to keep our air clean and to soak up carbon emissions. Our world is destructing around us and maintaining our native forests intact are one way to offset our ever increasing emissions.

There are so many species who call our forests home. We cannot keep on destroying the homes of our native wildlife, many of which are in serious threat of extinction. Some examples of animals under threats of extinction include yellow bellied gliders, the Greater Glider, Flying foxes, koalas just to name a few. There are 269 nationally threatened species in NSW and they will be compromised with the continued forestry operations.

Then there is all the flora as well.

We must immediately stop logging in native forests.

It is criminal that the populations of koalas in NSW are in a state of decline due to habitat loss. Yet Forestry operations continue in Northern NSW in an area that is being set aside for a Great Koala National Park. There will be no koalas remaining if forestry continues there before the Park is designated a national park.

Native forests in NSW hold significant cultural and spiritual value for First Nations people, but they are also an important cultural heritage for non First Nations people and their identities.

Native forests provide recreation and improved health outcomes to locals and visitors alike and are a source of community pride and connection to place. Many people use the forests as a place to rejuvenate their minds and bodies through recreation and simple pursuits such as bird watching and looking at the plants and animals.

Topic 3. Demand for timber products, particularly as relates to NSW housing, construction, mining, transport and retail

We must use plantation timbers for our remaining timber requirements. But don't destroy native forests to make way for more plantations. There are adequate existing plantations.

Half of the logs taken from native forests in 2023 were turned into woodchip and exported.

Hardwood sourced from native forests or plantations are no longer necessary for any of the uses identified in this section

Sawn and treated softwood logs and composite timber products made from softwoods can substitute for all current uses for native forest and plantation hardwoods.

There are now alternatives to using hardwood from native forests in many applications. There is no longer the imperative to keep cutting down our native forests.

Topic 4. The future of softwood and hardwood plantations and the continuation of Private Native Forestry in helping meet timber supply needs

High-end and luxury native hardwood products should only be selectively harvested on private land and under strict conditions.

NSW forestry is subsidised by the the tax-payer which makes it unsustainable and unnecessary. Plantations already provide 91% of Australia's log production

A higher proportion of harvested logs from plantations should be prioritised as saw and veneer logs, rather than exporting them as wood chips.

Topic 5. The role of State Forests in maximising the delivery of a range of environmental, economic and social outcomes and options for diverse management, including Aboriginal forest management models

Perhaps forestry workers could be retrained to care for the environment and create more recreational and educational possibilities rather than our tax dollars going to prop up this destructive industry.

Many regional towns and areas rely on the forests for clean air, water and for tourism. Eco tourism is a growth area and forestry workers could be retrained to work in eco tourism ventures, keeping the forests intact which has innumerable benefits to the health and well-being of so many people in surrounding areas.

The native forest hardwood division of the Forestry Corporation operates at a loss that runs into tens of millions of dollars, at the expense of the NSW public. It also additionally receives tens of millions of dollars in regular equity injections

The people of NSW should not be paying millions of dollars to destroy the biodiversity of our own state and critical habitat for threatened species

Public native forests have a much higher economic value when they are allowed to function naturally and without logging.

Topic 6. Opportunities to realise carbon and biodiversity benefits and support carbon and biodiversity markets, and mitigate and adapt to climate change risks, including the greenhouse gas emission impacts of different uses of forests and assessment of climate change risks to forests

As stated earlier, intact forests are necessary in our high carbon world. We need our forests to keep our air clean and to soak up carbon emissions. Our world is destructing around us and maintaining our native forests intact are one way to offset our ever increasing emissions.

Native forest logging in NSW is estimated to release 3.6 million tonnes of carbon every year Ending native forest logging would be the equivalent to removing 840 thousand cars from the roads per year

Logging in a native forest reduces the amount of stored carbon by more than half of the original value

Ending native forest logging will allow previously logged forests to regain lost carbon and make a significant contribution to meeting our emissions targets.