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

It is my understanding that the future of the timber industry lies in plantation settings on marginal farmland. Native forest logging employs very few workers in comparison and runs at a huge loss to the taxpayer. Native forests are worth far more left standing.

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

Native forests pose great environmental benefits to the conservation of native species including critically endangered species such as the greater glider and koalas. Recreational opportunities in State native forests would benefit the whole community. Aboriginal cultural values should also be considered as an important factor in protecting native forests.

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

I believe that native forests contribute very insignificantly to the building industry compared to plantation timber operations.

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

I believe that plantation timber industries will be the source of future timber requirements to meet supply needs.

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

State native forests have a huge potential to provide a range of positive social and recreational opportunities for the community.

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

Native forests are important for the survival of biodiversity and for the mitigation of the impacts of carbon dioxide emissions. Our native forests are worth more standing in their role against the effects of climate change and in suppressing dangerous wildfires.