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

Our native forests are shrinking, proof that current practices are unsustainable.

The skinny band of forest coverage on Australia's east coast has world significance. Maintaining forests is top priority in the battle to combat climate change. Forests sequester carbon, turning carbon into oxygen. Forests attract rain, manage water flows, reduce erosion, cool the landscape and if left intact reduce fire risk. Replanting trees is being promoted as a solution to shrinking forest cover, but currently the devastation of the logging industry far outweighs the proposed remedy. The shrinking of native forests will continue unsustainably into the future under the current regime of regulations.

It's past time for the government to act on this. The majority of the community are most concerned by the plight of our forests and wildlife. They are appalled by lack of government action but feel powerless because we are relying on our elected government to act responsibly and to represent our majority interests. The Forestry Corporation is making profits at our expense. Taxpayers do not wish to subsidise this rapacious industry. The subsidy would be better spent on transitioning away from logging to a more sustainable future of preserving and maintaining our National treasures.

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

Our native forests have intrinsic value, way beyond monetary value. For us human beings they offer solace, a spiritual foundation in life and a resource for healing. Forests are uplifting and promote well-being as a quiet oasis in this all-to-busy world.

Their environmental value is immeasurable. As well as ameliorating climate change, by turning carbon into oxygen, they provide habitat for our uniquely Australian wildlife. Too many species are currently under threat. An obvious answer to our biodiversity crisis is to preserve their habitat. And the immense, beautiful trees, beautiful flowers and variety of unique flora are invaluable and need protection and preservation.

The heritage value of forests to indigenous Australians must not be discounted, an integral part of their cultural practices.

Also, it would be a crime against future generations to allow further destruction of native forests.

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

That we need to continue native forestry to produce floorboards is an erroneous claim. Already plantations produce construction timbers and this is the way of the future. To destroy a forest so as some rich person can show off his fortune with classic timber features in his mansion is not an acceptable reason for logging. In fact, it is known that most (95%) native forest logging ends up as woodchip. Woodchip! It is completely unacceptable and erroneous that Redbank Power station should be supplied with woodchip from the destruction of our forests.

Wood products can be supplied by plantations and hardwood timbers from native forests is no longer necessary for any uses identified in this section.

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

From my research, it is clear that plantations are the way of the future. Plantations already supply more than 90% of log production. Apparently native forestry operations run at a loss that is subsidised by taxpayers which is clearly unacceptable.

Private Native Forestry is in need of reassessment.

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

The consequences of inadequate government regulation of native forest logging are far reaching. Courageous concerned citizens will continue to protest, locking on to forestry machinery, sacrificing time, money, energy and sometimes livelihoods and careers to highlight the plight of forests. Although they may end up in jail, in court and pay fines, they will not stop, and more protesters are joining their ranks. A time has come to turn around the destruction. Native Forestry has No social licence.

The role of forests in our future is of paramount importance. Forests are the litmus test for environmental health. Forests have higher value left standing for positive impacts on carbon storage, climate amelioration, water quality, eco-tourism, benefits for all Australians.

First Nations Ranger programs are a good investment for restoring forests.

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 forest logging releases millions of tonnes of carbon. One easy way to help Australia achieve its Emissions Reduction Targets is to stop native forest logging. Also, logging is driving the risk to forest health making them less resilient to climate disasters. The obvious answer to our biodiversity crisis is to preserve their habitat.