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

I am a timber industry worker. I believe it is our responsibility to manage our local forests for local production. I believe regulation provided by Local Land Services ensures quality, sustainable management.

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

Environmental and cultural values of the forest are managed through government policy. The small portion of the forest that is harvested each year ensures habitat connectivity and health. Cultural and heritage values mapped and managed as part of a harvest operation. Talk about the destruction of old growth, rainforest and mangroves are unfounded as these forest types are not harvested in NSW.

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

The demand for timber products has increased. The predicted increase in housing construction will further increase demand. Timber should be encouraged as a construction material as it is renewable and stores carbon during its lifespan.

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

The continuation of private native forestry needs to be encouraged through good government extension and policy, and community education on benefits of good forest management like reinvigorated growth, multiage forest cover for diverse animal habitat and creation of access for pest and fire management. Increased timber usage with larger population will put pressure on the current plantation estate. Research to increase productivity of plantations and genetic material to ensure growth over a larger geographic range will be needed to ensure the counties timber supply.

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

I find this question redundant as the use of state forest is already highly regulated to ensure these outcomes. Broader community understanding of forest management and reduced media misinformation will help reduce the political nature of forest resource management

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

Community education in what forest management looks like. Stop politicising the management of an asset that can and is used to meet the needs of the community in a responsible renewable way.

Education about the real costs of closing the forests to harvest. Where will timber come from? What are the cost of alternatives such as steel? What happens to the international forests that are harvested to meet our needs?