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

I find the current state of native forest logging to be unsustainable. Logging reduces the carbon storage that forests have a vital role in undertaking as well as being vital habitat and food trees. Additionally logging has been proven to increase the threat of bushfires and threaten waterways that people rely on for drinking and agricultural purposes.

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

First Nations communities deeply value their forests as part of their culture and identity. I have met First Nations people in northern NSW and learnt about their pain from seeing the logging occurring on or near their sacred sites. Forests are also valued by local communities who use them for recreational purposes as well as being of benefit to people's well-being. Additionally, logging impacts 150 threatened species and the reduction of mature forests impacts the role of pollinators in the ecosystem, which hurts local farmers and communities.

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

Native forest logging only accounted for 9% of log production in Australia last year. Half of those logs are turned into wood chips and exported overseas. Native hardwood from native forests aren't necessary in housing, construction, mining, transport and retail. They can be substituted with plantation wood.

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

Plantation wood makes up 91% of Australia's wood supply. This should be prioritised over native logging, and should be primarily used as saw and veneer logs over being exported for 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

Non logged native forests provide far more benefit left standing than being logged. It improves the local ecology and neighbouring communities which in turn sees an economical benefit. They provide tourism opportunities, food quality water and carbon storage to achieve emissions reductions targets.

The current native forest logging industry runs at a loss of tens of millions of dollars with tax payers having to foot out the subsidies they receive. This money should be used to help fund transitioning for existing workers and help fund ranger programs.

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

Logging in NSW releases 3.6 million tonnes of carbon each year, if this stopped it would be equivalent to removing 840,000 cars off the road.

Climate change exacerbating the health of the forests so ending native forest logging is essential to protecting them.