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

There are several reasons why native forest logging is Unsustainable.

There is less available than estimates suggest, yield is declining rapidly (40% since 2010) which led to mature tree protections being removed in 2018.

Forests are now more vulnerable to fire threat and intensity, erosion, water pollution, weeds and invasive species.

Biomass and carbon storage and biodiversity is substantially and critically reduced. Native forest logging also reduces the function and health of all waterways. It is NOT sustainable.

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

Intact native forests have benefits for everyone. Firstly, they are essential for pollinators, without which we cannot survive. They preserve native vegetation and animals, birds, reptiles and insects of every kind. 150 threatened species are directly impacted by logging native forests which compromises ecosystems and habitats.

Unlogged forests are ideal places for recreation as well as being culturally important and provide a source of peace, tranquillity and connection to country. They generate rainfall, cool the landscape and clean the air. First Nations people have a deep, intrinsic connection to the trees and the forest as a whole. Ranger programs have been hugely successful at managing the recovery and health of native forests. Programs such as the Githabul Rangers have demonstrated how First Nations knowledge and management can restore the critical natural function of native forests.

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

The market and demand for native forest timbers is declining rapidly and logging them accounted for only 9% of the industry total in 2023. Hardwood sourced from native forests are no longer required. Just 8% were saw and veneer logs. 87% of hardwood plantation logs were exported as wood chips. Sawn and treated softwood logs and composite timber products can substitute for all current uses of native forest and plantation hardwoods.

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

It needs to be noted that plantations already provide 91% of log production and rather than being "wasted" in woodchip, a higher proportion should be prioritised for use as saw and veneer logs. High end and luxury hardwood should only be selectively harvested on private land under strict conditions. Subsidising the logging of public native forests by the Forestry Corporation is non-competitive and distorts the market away from the more profitable softwood plantation industry. We must stop wasting our timber and our forests. This is poor economics.

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

It is unacceptable to expect the people of NSW to pay \$millions in subsidies to destroy public native forests and the biodiversity they maintain. They have a much higher value without logging, economic, health and cultural. Covering an area of 2 million hectares these forests have a positive impact on living conditions (environment), water and air quality, carbon storage and tourism. The native hardwood division of the Forestry Corporation operates at a significant loss, tens of millions of dollars and also receives a similar amount in equity injections. This is not in the people of NSW best interest.

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

There are a number of ways in which native forest preservation can assist us to combat and be more resilient in the face of climate change.

Forests that have not been logged are themselves more resilient to catastrophic fire. They have a cooling effect and conserve moisture. Fire severity is influenced by forest age.

They can also help us meet our emissions targets by storing carbon. Logging reduces the amount of stored carbon by more than half the original value. Old growth forests store vastly more carbon than young saplings. Previously logged forests can regain lost carbon over time and assist in meeting emissions targets. As trees grow, their carbon storage compensates for earlier logging and clearing emissions, which is an important climate benefit. Ending native forest logging would be the equivalent to taking 840,000 petrol cars off the road. On the other hand, logging is estimated to release 3.6 million tonnes of carbon per year.