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

The reduction in yields over time of timber harvested from native forests and the dependence of our native fauna on mature forests for nesting and habitat show the unsustainable nature of native forest logging. Forest ecosystems are not given time to recover from current logging practices, leading to ongoing decline in the biodiversity of native species.

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

Environmental values of forests are seriously declining due to the reduction of mature forests and undisturbed ecosystems in NSW. Native forest logging is threatening a whole range of species and driving these towards extinction. The cultural values of forests are often ignored or not taken seriously. Both First Nations people and other local communities are often locked out of our local forests and little value is given to visiting and connecting with them.

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

Native timber logging produces a very low proportion (9%) of log production and a large proportion of that was exported as woodchips. Even hardwood plantations have a high majority of logs exported as woodchips. The substitution of sawn and treated softwood timbers and composite softwood products is a viable option for housing and construction.

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

The reliance on private native forestry must not come at the expense of existing biodiverse forests. Plantations need to be utilised judiciously and land clearing of existing native vegetation to allow expansion of private plantations is not a good outcome for the environment.

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**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 management and preservation of existing State forests for biodiversity and species protection as well as carbon management should be seen as a worthy and desirable outcome. As discussed previously the social and cultural values of forests are valuable to local communities. The previous mindset of exploitation of State Forests for the purposes of financial gain has proven to be illusory, the situation where forest harvesting which seriously damages environmental and biodiversity values and yet needs extravagant subsidies from the State Government should not be allowed to continue.

**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**

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Climate Change is an undeniable threat to the future of the planet and the high value of old growth forests in carbon storage is well known. Rather than continuing logging NSW native forests, which emits 3.6 million tonnes of Carbon per year, Governments must stop logging mature native forests and allow previously logged forests to recover.