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

-Forestry's native logging sector is actually costing the public an average of more than \$11 million per annum (Australia Institute report -Money Doesn't Grow on Trees., 2016).

Given this, the logging of native forests makes no sense, economically or environmentally.

It would make better sense to stop logging native forests and instead to use these millions of dollars, currently being spent on logging, to educate, train and employ people to actually look after our forests.

This would, most importantly, include listening to and acting on the advice of forest experts, that is Aboriginal Elders and forest ecologists and fire experts about the best ways to look after our forests.

Forest protection and conservation can be positive for both jobs creation and the environment.

Positive jobs could include:

-Expanding and better managing plantations, and processing more of the timber grown in plantations in Australia, to create more jobs here.

-Revegetating large areas of forest that have failed to regenerate after logging and repeated wildfires.

-Creating jobs for Aboriginal rangers, as deemed necessary and appropriate by Aboriginal Elders and Traditional custodians.

-Employment in eco-tourism to generate regional jobs, and help to connect more people to the natural environment.

-Developing elite fire-fighting crews to protect rural communities.

-Controlling feral animals, and creating new industries to use the meat.

-Climate change is the key contributor to increased bushfires. Disturbance of forests, such as from logging, exacerbates the impacts of climate change.

Deforestation, with its resulting dehydration of the forest and thick regrowth providing increased fuel load, has been linked to greater intensity of wildfires and has been proven to make bushlands more fire prone.

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

-Long term storage of carbon in forests is a critical part of tackling climate change. Ending logging in old growth forests and allowing logged forests to regrow to old age would create vital carbon assets.

-There are 269 nationally listed threatened species in NSW and the landscape scale significance of native forests means that native forest logging compromises many ecosystems and habitats throughout NSW.

-First Nations people and communities have ongoing connection to native forests and forest landscapes are an integral part of cultural practice and knowledge

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

- The native forest industry is not sawlog driven, it is dominated by cutting trees for pulp to make paper and box liners or woodchip for export. Logging in native forests accounted for only 9% of the total log production in Australia in the year 2023.
- The market and demand for native forests is declining rapidly. Plantation timber and other materials have displaced native forest hardwood in the average Australian house. In fact there has been an almost 90% decline in the use of native forest hardwood, for Australian houses, over the past 20 years, and it continues to decline. Plantation timber is far better suited to modern construction.
- Paper manufacturing from native forests is also in decline. For example, many individuals and businesses are choosing not to buy photocopy paper that is not environmentally certified by the FSC. Also, laptops and tablets have contributed to the decrease in levels of paper consumption in the workplace.

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

- Plantations already provide 91% of Australia's log production.
- A higher proportion of harvested logs from plantations should be prioritised as saw and veneer logs, rather than exporting them as 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

- Forest protection and conservation can be positive for both jobs creation and the environment, including:
 - Expanding and better managing plantations, and processing more of the timber grown in plantations in Australia, to create more jobs here;
 - Revegetating large areas of forest that have failed to regenerate after logging and repeated wildfires;
 - Creating jobs for First Nations' rangers, as deemed necessary and appropriate by First Nations' Elders and Traditional custodians;
 - Developing a nature-based economy for example training young people to be nature guides in our forests.
 - Developing eco-tourism to generate regional jobs, and help to connect more people to the natural environment;
 - Developing elite fire-fighting crews to protect rural communities;
 - Controlling feral animals, and creating new industries to use the meat.
 - Environmental benefits in this time of frightening climate change include:
 - Carbon capture and storage
 - Reduction of risk of wildfires
 - Endangered species protection.
 - First Nations Peoples expertise, skills and knowledge, together with western scientific expertise, are pivotal to looking after our native forests now and into the future.
- Co-management models for national parks are already in place in a few parts of Australia, such as Booderee National Park at Jervis Bay, and at Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park in South Australia.

Co-management could include working on feral animal and invasive plant control, wildlife monitoring, visitor management, tourism guides, and also fire 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

- allowing logged Forests to regrow to old age would create vital carbon assets.
- Forests that have not been logged are more resilient to the changing climate and catastrophic fires that are occurring as a consequence
- Australia has a number of scientists with expertise in wildfires, and could foster the development of new industries based on new technologies to quickly detect and suppress wildfires.