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

Logging native forests is not sustainable, once a pristine forest is demolished it will never be the same again. The conditions it took to raise a native forest have taken millennia to form, and it is a cohesive unit comprising not just the trees and plants we see above the ground but a huge ecosystem below ground, of fungi and other supportive life forms. The ecosystem works as a supportive whole, and supports all life on earth, without needing any "management" by human beings. We kill these ecosystems at our peril. They are the lungs of the earth. we have probably killed too many already, and are killing thousands of hectares a day. We have to stop this now, or nature will not recover.

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

Aboriginal peoples all around the world, and right here in Australia, the oldest continuous culture in the world, know that we must protect nature, that we humans and other animals are in a symbiotic relationship with forests and rivers. We have some of the rarest native forests in the world, and yet our government sees fit to allow their destruction in the name of "forestry". Real forestry lies in protecting pristine native forests from destruction, and finding other ways to harvest the products we need from other sources, including existing plantation forests, bamboo etc. Finding jobs and employment opportunities in native forests that do not involve felling trees, but enjoying their spectacular beauty, and conducting scientific research.

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

Timber products have changed, "sustainable timber" is now the buzz word, and that is a good thing and must be honest and transparent. LVL, laminated veneer lumber products have replaced previous offerings, and are used everywhere. Bamboo is increasingly being used as a quickly replaced, sustainable option for furniture and household items.

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

I don't know enough about Private Native Forestry, maybe plantations of native forests for such purposes is a good thing ... but don't ever destroy a pristine native forest to build a plantation. A pristine native forest has a balance of plants that support each other, and has taken millennia to form. I suspect that a private native forestry business is based on a mono culture of the trees that are most valuable to the industry ... and a mono-culture is never as strong as an ecosystem.

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

Aboriginal forest management models would take in the concept of the forest as a whole ecosystem, and would support bio-diversity, and ultimate sustainability. This is the only way to plan for a future on our increasingly overheated planet. Previous governments have focused on the immediate needs of industry, and jobs, and have not really examined the value of the forest as a whole, within the country/world as a whole. We have to start doing that. We know now that there are alternative ways to get the products that we need, and also to face the fact that some timbers are now not available. We took them all ... now none are left, eg. Huon Pine. Social outcomes include feeling good about what we use and how we get those things. Do we really want to wipe everything of a species out to gratify our immediate desires?

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

Forests lock in carbon, and they generate huge amounts of oxygen, effectively cleaning the air for us to breathe. They are the lungs of the planet. Pristine native forests are the most efficient, and need no human intervention. Plantation forests probably do a good job too, but they need humans and greenhouse-gas-emitting machinery to maintain. All forests are dependent on certain climactic conditions, and right around the world these are changing. As we destroy pristine native forests we create challenges for the remaining forests, a hotter planet, making rainforests, for example, susceptible to bushfire, when they were not before. No amount of research and scientific evaluation, in spite of the best efforts of industry or governments for that matter, can make a case that plantation forests are better for our sustainable future than pristine native forests. We need to find other ways to get the products we need, the jobs we need, and to start doing that immediately, and leave the pristine native forests alone.