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

The current practice is unsustainable and I support a just transition for this industry to come to an end. Native trees provide an invaluable carbon sink and habitat for native species. Native trees in the forestry industry also provide other valuable ecosystem services such as preventing sedimentation into rivers. Native logging increases opportunity for invasive species of flora and fauna.

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

150 threatened species in NSW are directly impacted by logging native forests, and the flora and fauna in these areas have environmental and cultural value to both Aboriginal and European people.

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

It is apparent this industry is not economically viable without financial subsidies. Government should support development of sustainable plantations which do not log native vegetation. Half these trees are used in woodchip, which does not even contribute towards housing or other long term uses.

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, and should be prioritised as saw and veneer logs, rather than exporting them as wood chips. 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.

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

Native state forests cover an area of 2 million hectares in NSW and impact on a diverse set of living conditions for many towns, from water quality in reservoirs, to greater tourism industry opportunities, and carbon storage and abatement

The native forest hardwood division of the Forestry Corporation operates at a loss that runs into tens of millions of dollars, at the expense of the NSW public. It also additionally receives tens of millions of dollars in regular equity injections.

This is an expensive and environmentally destructive practice that runs completely counter to the Federal Government's stated goals of achieving nature positivity.

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

Native forest logging in NSW is estimated to release 3.6 million tonnes of carbon every year. Ending native forest logging would be the equivalent to removing 840 thousand cars from the roads per year. The carbon drawdown and other ecosystem services provided by these trees are critical for our ongoing survival on a safe and healthy planet.

Rather than logging these forests, the Government should be working with the community and First Nations communities to restore these forests to high quality, bushfire resilient, places.