

NAME REDACTED

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

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Logging native forest in Australia is not sustainable at all. The timber which is harvested in NSW sold at a loss to be used for woodchips and the loss of habitat for iconic protected native species is a loss which significantly outweighs any gain from the sale of the timber which is produced. If we dig deeper we find that the cost of the logging operations to the taxpayer is also significant and also outweighs the value of the harvested timber. These facts alone make this industry unsustainable unless the burden of financing it is shouldered by the taxpayer. Any industry which cannot survive without taxpayer funds is not sustainable by definition.

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

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The land where our native forests grow has long been home to many native species of flora and fauna and to lose such a vital part of our landscape would be a massive act of collective self harm. Living, growing, forest has the power to safeguard our homes from fires and drought, to clean the water in our catchments and the biodiversity within is significant on a global scale because the majority of the wildlife that lives on this continent is found only on this continent. The list of species which are only found in Australia includes 87 Percent of Australian mammals, 93% of Australian reptiles, 94% of frogs and 45% of our birds. Destroying the ecosystems where these animals live is destroying a significant portion of our cultural and environmental heritage which we will never be able to regain.

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

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Our native forests are being logged for woodchip export. Native hardwood makes up just 9% of Australia's timber production but half of that is exported as woodchips. Saw and veneer logs make up another 8% with more than 80% of that also being exported as woodchip. However, if the forest which is being destroyed on a national scale was providing timber for Australian housing then it would still be a poor trade. Losing our native species for housebuilding would be a difficult choice but to trade it for exports of woodchips is asinine. The fact that taxpayer money is being appropriated to such a loss making enterprise should be offensive to any Australian who has ever paid tax. There are acres upon acres of land which can be used to create managed plantations that could satisfy the national need for timber products without irreparably harming so much of what makes Australia great.

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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**

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Most of Australian timber production is already from plantations. Providing public funds for a logging enterprise at a loss to the taxpayer is not only unfair competition in the forestry sector, it also makes a loss. In 2023 alone this publicly funded venture lost \$15 million of taxpayer money. That money could have gone quite a long way to ameliorating the effects of the housing crisis on

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the most vulnerable members of our society or funding our public healthcare system. If this enterprise was a private business then it would have folded by now. If we stop diverting public funds to this loss making and uncompetitive enterprise then we could improve local economies in regional areas where the timber industry operates by making space for better managed private businesses to fill the required gaps in production.

**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**

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The taxpayer already provided \$31 million for the upkeep of the forest and other community service obligations such as management of our water catchments in 2023. If over 90% of our timber needs are met by the private sector and the remaining percentage is run at a loss which goes beyond the tens of millions of dollars of taxpayer money and into the destruction of globally significant heritage then no sane person could argue in favour of continuing to engage in such loss making behaviour. Sustainably managed public forests are of great benefit in providing us with clean water, cheap carbon storage, habitat for our iconic species and part of the 1.6% of Australia's GDP which comes from our tourism sector.

**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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Our forests are already facing significant pressure from the cycle of bushfires which ravage the land and destroy life and property every year. To continue to damage them further using public funds is highly wasteful. Living forest stores carbon and logging that forest releases it. Every year native forest logging releases 3.6 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere which is the equivalent of over 800,000 internal combustion engines. We could see a real and significant positive environmental impact from ending native forest logging based on those numbers alone, without taking into account the gains of preventing the loss of our valuable biodiversity.