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

I am sure you will have received many submissions that provide detailed and well researched positions to demonstrate the folly of continuing native forest logging so I am going to make mine simple and straightforward.

I am a human who shares this planet with millions of other species.

Earth is about 4.5 billion years old.

The earliest forms of life began about 3.7 billion years ago.

The first Hominins which include the human species and immediate ancestors emerged about 7 million years ago.

Homo sapiens, the first modern humans, evolved from their early hominid predecessors between 200,000 and 300,000 years ago.

More than 99% of all species that ever lived on Earth, amounting to over five billion species, are estimated to have died out.

A total of 777 animals have gone extinct since the beginning of the modern era in 1500, according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List.

100 of Australia's endemic species declared as extinct (or extinct in the wild) since the colonisation of Australia by Europeans in 1788.

This shows that Australia has one of the worst extinction rates on Earth and it's getting worse.

Bulldozing of bush and forest, invasive species and fires, floods and drought fuelled by climate change are destroying nature and driving wildlife to extinction.

Each time a species goes extinct, the world around us unravels a bit. The consequences are profound, not just in those places and for those species but for all of us. These are tangible consequential losses, such as crop pollination and water purification, but also spiritual and cultural ones.

Logging of publicly owned native forest every year degrades soil carbon stocks, destroy habitat, reduce biodiversity and create large areas of young trees that are then the subject of future forestry operations.

Habitat loss and associated loss of biodiversity poses the greatest threat to species, not only for koalas but also humans.

Trees are the habitat and a material resource for numerous animals and are the main reason we breathe. Replacing native trees with other trees does not restore the environmental needs of native animals.

You may not care about koalas, but how long do you think humans will survive the collapse of the earth's ecosystem due to loss of biodiversity?

Are humans going to be the first species that is the architect of its own extinction?