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

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- \* Native forests are a finite resource.
- \* The way logging is carried out now destroys everything, not just a tree here and there. The integrity of the WHOLE forest is destroyed by the crude manner in which the NSW Forestry Industry damages the forest. Nothing is left after the machines rip out every bit of anything green.
- \* Native forest logging increases fire threat and intensity. It allows for weeds, erosion, degradation of soil, loss of habitat and water pollution.
- \* Machines destroy canopy and understory.
- \* The Forestry Corporation overestimates how much timber is harvestable.
- \* Losing mature trees means a loss of hollows for birds and a loss of a food source. 174 species in NSW need hollows to breed. Logging decimates bird and animal populations and causes local extinctions of species.
- \* Species like Koalas, the Glossy Black Cockatoo and the Greater Glider have nowhere to go or live!
- \* only 1 in 5 Koalas is protected in NSW Koala Park! Logging occurs in an area the Government promised to protect! Shameful.
- \* There are 13 active logging operations in the National Koala Park. 1 hectare in every 24 is logged. This is 4 TIMES GREATER than any other areas logged. How does this make any sense?
- \* Native forests yield has declined by 40% since 2010. The forests are struggling and suffering to keep their integrity.
- \* Fungi and important micro organisms/bacteria that allow trees to communicate are destroyed by clear fell logging.
- \* NSW forests are a global biodiversity hotspot.
- \* The science is there and clear, ie logging causes extinction!
- \*\* Native forest logging is UNSUSTAINABLE for the damage it causes, as stated above, and is totally unacceptable in this day and age. In fact it is unconscionable.
- \* The Forestry Industry should focus on planting and providing opportunity for eco tourism. No One wants to visit a wasteland.

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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 science is clear here too.

Healthy mature forests generate rainfall, cool the landscape and clean the air.

Spending time in forests affects the brains serotonin and dopamine levels, improving mental health and wellbeing. (I am a psychologist I know how important quiet, green and ancient forests are).

150 threatened species in NSW are directly negatively affected by logging in native forests.

Native mature forests are critical for pollinators and play a major role in pollination inside and outside the forest.

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269 nationally listed threatened species in NSW are severely compromised by loss of habitat and ecosystems caused by logging.

I have been to "forests" in Indonesia that have been logged and there are no bird songs, no rustles of reptiles. One has the sense of "nothing lives here". The magic has been destroyed.

What the Forestry Industry does is extinction logging. These dead, weed infested areas have no environmental value. There will be no environmental value in the future in such areas. What a price to pay huh!

First Nations Peoples invest mature native forests with significant spiritual and cultural value. Their history and dreaming legends are tied to the landscape and the trees that are part of this. For them native mature forests represent ancestors. The damage is sacrilegious. They have an ongoing connection to the forests and the animals that live there. It is a living connection to a living forest.

Koalas particularly are a totemic animal to some Aboriginal peoples. How shocking their habitat is being destroyed the way it is here.

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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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Native forests produce low value products. Higher value building products come from plantation estates. More investment is needed in plantation timber.

Shockingly, 87% of hardwood logs were exported as wood chips. Only 8% of hardwood was used for saw and veneer logs.

50% of logs from native forests in 2023 were chopped into wood chip and exported. What a waste!

We have alternate sources to native forest timber. Softwood logs and composite timber products made from softwoods can substitute for all current uses of native forest and hardwoods.

Only 9% of the total log production in 2023 in Australia was from native forests.

We don't need to do this.

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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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It is time to consider the value of our biodiversity and unique flora and fauna and birdlife. Private land forestry harvesting must have strict conditions so the local habitat remains protected.

We already get 91% of logs from plantations.

Stop exporting logs as wood chips and use them as saw and veneer. Again, what a waste!

Subsidising logging in native forests by the Forestry Corporation is non competitive when other options such as softwood plantations are more profitable. Subsidising is propping up an inefficient destructive monster.

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### **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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2 million hectares of NSW are covered by native forests. They give us carbon storage, clean air, good water quality in reservoirs, they allow for greater tourism opportunities and improved mental health.

A healthy mature forest keeps us healthy and nourishes and fosters our native animals, insects and the millions of micro organisms that sustain life.

Many medicines have their derivatives from forest products, plants and bacteria. The forest is incredibly valuable for what it can provide for our future health and protection against viruses etc.

There is so much we have yet to learn about this.

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State Forests must protect our water security. This means protecting mature forests  
State Forests have an obligation to assist in reducing carbon in the atmosphere. This means protecting our forests.  
State Forests have an obligation to future generations of Australia to protect our unique flora and fauna.  
The Forestry Corporation's native hardwood division operates at a loss. Tens of millions of dollars that the NSW public could use for hospitals and schools for example. Is this reasonable? Why are we propping up such an ineffective destructive organisation?  
Native forests that the public can access have a much higher economic value without sections ripped out for logging.  
First Nations knowledge and management can help to restore damage done.  
The State Forests have an important role in the rehabilitation and recovery of native forests and fostering an increase in declining threatened species.  
Please get on with the repair work everyone. Much more valuable time spent as an investment in our positive future.

**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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If native forest logging is ended now, this would improve progress to greenhouse gases reduction. It would be the equivalent of taking 840,000 cars off the road every year!!  
Logging in native forests reduces the amount of stored carbon in these forests. It releases 3.6 million tonnes of carbon every year. Bad.  
Forests that have not been logged are more resilient to fires and changing climate conditions. Logging increases the risk of catastrophic fires that kill people and thousands of our animals and birds. So STOP.