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

It is acknowledged that Australia is facing an extinction crisis, contributing to which is the destruction of our native forest habitat through over exploitation, which has been happening for generations. To allow native forest logging to continue will only contribute further to the already parlous state of our native forest habitat. Recent assessment of the state of our environment concludes that only an approach that prioritizes conservation and repair will save many vulnerable species from extinction. This obviously means that the unsustainable practice of native forest logging must cease.

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

Many native forest environments are sacred to our First Nations people. This is often because of the value attributed to the continued survival of the forests which have been protected and used sustainably for thousands of years. It is an affront to the values of first nations people to insensitively destroy something of important spiritual and environmental significance. Often species habitat and culture heritage values are closely linked. To break the interconnection often has disastrous consequences for the most vulnerable inhabitants of the native forests. We cannot continue to log native forests without seriously damaging their inherent values.

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

There will always be a demand for timber products, but this does not excuse the wholesale destruction of the native forest environment for their procurement. There are other environmentally acceptable ways to access hardwood timber, such as sustainable plantations.

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

As above, plantation supply of timber is more sustainable and has less impact of wildlife habitat.

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

Our First Nations people have managed our native forests sustainably for thousands of years. It is time that we acknowledged their expertise in forest management and started to employ management strategies that stood traditional owners and their environment in good stead for millenia. However, management should not include logging.

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

We need healthy forests for carbon sequestration, water purification and native wildlife habitat. The recently recognized threat of climate change and the realization that trees are essential in carbon sequestration makes it obvious that there is great benefit in the retention of as many native forest environments as possible. Globally we are seeing vast swathes of forest removed or burnt for commercial gain or as a result of a warmer and dryer climate. Now is the time to make a stand to ensure that native forests are off limits when it comes to making way for development or exploitation of timber resources.