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

I am in my 80s. As a child I didn't have to think about the quality of the air or water, I could not have imagined a climate catastrophe or species loss as is so clearly upon us now. It's so clear the increasing speed of deforestation in nsw is leading to environmental collapse of the ecosystem we all depend on for life. The rapid decline and severe threat of extinction of our iconic world renowned species eg the koala should have been enough to put an immediate stop to logging of native forests

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

It appears there is no environmental or cultural value of forests. Australia unashamedly leads the world in species extinctions. This hurts us all, especially indigenous peoples who have already lost too much. Australia is renowned for our amazing flora and fauna but logging whether 'selective' or worse 'clearfelling' depletes the habitat of plants and animals leaving them all vulnerable to drought, raging fires and illnesses. Our forests are worth more standing. They attract visitors from around our country and tourists from overseas who appear to appreciate our wildlife so much more than our political leaders.

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

We must not rely on native forests for our timber. There are so many alternatives. Hemp and bamboo are fast growing not so thirsty and can be used in a myriad of different ways to supply all our needs. Plantation Timbers are plenty. If developers were forced to pay for the embodied carbon in existing houses they plan to destroy, there would be an incentive to maintain, adapt and retrofit existing houses or at the very least reuse all the existing timbers and materials. Opposite my house were two California bungalows in good condition, both smashed to smithereines. These two houses could have been converted into a two storey building of 4 units. Maintaining all timbers and existing materials and integrity of the buildings would have avoided the carbon emissions caused by concrete and other new materials and their transport. The existing garden and mature trees and soils would have remained. Down the road is the example of saving a federation house and its valuable hardwood by adaptation and an additional storey.

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

We must ban native forests logging immediately, preserve existing timber through good maintenance and reuse. Any new timber must come only from existing plantations.

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

There is no environmental, economic or social benefit to logging our forests. Our forests cannot be 'managed' by State Forests. My money (public money) is paying for not only the huge funding to the mismanaged logging industry and economic loss by State Forestry but causing irreversible damage. As soon as the natural balance within forests is disturbed all species are put under unnatural stress, the forest canopy is depleted, the undergrowth dries out and the soils heat up. Raging fires take hold in disturbed forests. The combined knowledge of indigenous peoples and new scientific knowledge about forest preservation must be heeded to.

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

It is criminal disregard of the danger of climate catastrophe that sees the plan for the promised Great Koala National Park waiting to be enacted while all those same Forests continue to be logged and destroyed at an unbelievably rapid pace. Everyone knows mature trees sequester the most carbon. Everyone knows it takes hundreds of years to replace felled trees and to grow them to the stage when birds and animals can make use of the slow forming hollows, when the undergrowth is shaded by tree canopy and the earth beneath remains cool and moist.

'Carbon trading' is only beneficial for traders to make money. It has been proven to have no benefit in reducing climate chaos or saving habitats.

It seems to me that the only reason for continuing logging/clearfelling is to avoid transitioning those small numbers of workers into lifesaving, climate-remediating industries. The monstrous mechanical equipment used in both mining and logging have replaced manpower. The monetary benefits go only to the equipment manufacturers while our precious old growth timbers go into making tomato stakes, pallets, crappy chipboard and toilet paper. What a waste, when the true environmental economic and social benefits come from keeping our forests in tact and healthy and brimming with life, a place that attracts economic benefits through tourism and perhaps even doctors' prescriptions for Forest Bathing