

NAME REDACTED

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**Location:** New South Wales

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

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i. Logging in native forests is not sustainable from an environmental perspective:

- Logging native forests removes the older trees, removing hollows and other habitat for native wildlife, such as the Koala and the Great Glider.
- Current levels of logging are not sustainable and result in the removal of protections for key habitat.

- Continued logging is contributing greatly to the extinction of forest dependent wildlife.

- The 2019/20 fires have made this situation much more urgent and serious.

ii. Logging in native forests is not sustainable from an economic perspective:

- Forestry Operations have been shown to be uneconomical. The Frontiers Economic report states:

"Public native forest logging (NFL) has poor financial performance across all Australian jurisdictions. This places an unnecessary economic burden and risk to state governments, whilst also having a negative impact upon native forests and the wildlife that call them home. The continuation of this industry exposes governments and the taxpayer to an increasing level of financial risk." (Frontiers Economics, Nov. 2023)

- The Frontiers Economics report

also found that logging business Forestry Corporation NSW (Forestry Corp)- a taxpayer-owned logging business - received \$246.9 million worth of grants since 2019/20 financial year, while the hardwood division (which is responsible for native forest logging) made a loss of \$28.2 million over the same period.

iii. Forestry products from native forests are turned into low value products such as woodchips, which are then shipped off shore to be value-added to. Clearing of native forests for softwood plantations also adds to this low value use. Pallet production is unsustainable; pallets are not re-used and not recycled by many businesses (for example, Bunnings)

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

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i Forests are vital refuges for many threatened species that rely on mature, intact forests for their ongoing survival. Forests ensure habitat connectivity, critical in supporting biodiversity and ecosystem health.

ii. Forests provide important ecosystem services for the environment and regional communities, such as:

- Water quality and flow regulation, important for water quality, fishing and tourism. Intact forests prevent erosion and landslides and mitigate the impact of heavy rain events.

- Forests offer recreational and educational values for locals and visitors. Walking, cycling, nature discovery

- Native forests have deep cultural and spiritual significance, especially for indigenous communities.

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

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There is no longer any need to log public native forests to build houses or to provide timber products to other sectors.

Existing plantations can supply our high quality and composite timber products.

Shifting to plantation timber, providing this does not result in further clearing of native forests, reduces pressure on native forests, supporting sustainable timber industry practices

- The timber industry should be encouraged to develop closed systems of production to further improve its sustainability.

### **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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- Existing hardwood and softwood plantations already provide 91% of Australia's log production.

- Investment in hardwood plantation on already cleared land would supply timber products.

Poorer non-agricultural soils should be prioritised over food production areas.

- Shifting to higher-value plantations can better meet timber needs. Stop harvesting native hardwood forests for woodchips, firewood and garden sleepers!

- Removing public forest subsidies would boost sustainable timber production on private lands.

### **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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### **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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- Logging in native forests releases large amounts of carbon, contributing to climate change.

- Logging in forests decreases biodiversity and alters ecosystem and catchment functions.

- Stopping logging allows forests to recover, helping them store more carbon and support our climate goals.

- Healthy forests are essential for reducing the impacts of climate change such as wildfires and drought. Mature forests have been shown to increase humidity, cool soil and air temperatures and increase rainfall.

- By stopping logging, forests can play a large role in mitigating climate risks and supporting opportunities in carbon markets.

- large mature old growth native hardwoods store significant amounts of carbon and provide critical wildlife habitat in the form of hollows. These take 100s of years to grow, but are being chopped down in a matter of minutes. There is absolutely no sense - environmental or economical - in the removal of our old growth native forests