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

Currently the south coast of NSW where I live is still heavily scarred from the 2019-20 bushfires, and yet logging goes on in severely compromised forests. Economic analysis has demonstrated that native forest logging makes hugely less profit than the plantation sector. (Frontier Economics and ANU, 2021, Comparing the Value of Alternative Uses of Native Forests in Southern NSW.)

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

The viability of many species, the decline in numbers and the rapid increase of species on the critically endangered list is truly scary.

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

As fires and natural disasters increase, we will need to segway into use of fire resistant building materials. This will apply especially in coastal areas.

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

Plantations please, and preservation of native forests, with zero logging of old growth forests.

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

The primary role of State Forests need to become as custodians of the maintenance and health of State Forests. Currently it is the agent of destruction, including fire ravaged and species poor places such as the Brooman Forest just south of where I live. To visit it is to weep. Native forest logging runs at a loss that taxpayers subsidise only to produce low value products that have sustainable alternatives. The state will be in a better environmental and economic position if we transition to plantation timber. New jobs in eco-tourism and eco-timber with a transition package will ensure forestry communities are protected.

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

Keeping our native forests intact is vital to stopping a biodiversity crisis through mass extinction of endangered species like the koala and the greater glider as well as erosion of much needed carbon sinks. Where urban development occurs, serious planning for wildlife corridors is essential.