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

Forestry Corporation operates at a loss and is only maintained by the unacceptable erosion of protections for habitat on the one hand, and faster harvest rotations on the other. FC yields are less than those of managed plantations. Continued logging will increase the likelihood of further extinctions to add to our already shameful record. We cannot continue to do such harm to precious iconic species, such as the koala.

Logging is harmful to the environment, drying the landscape, increasing bushfire risk, causing erosion and spoiling watercourses and water quality.

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

Forests are vital for a healthy environment on a grand scale as well as at ecosystem level. Threatened species rely on mature, undisturbed forests. Practices such as clear-felling, burning and poisoning not only destroy habitat, but cause long-term damage to the soil, whereas standing forests improve soil quality. Forests clean the air and the water and state forests are the origin of many a town's water supply.

Indigenous people, residents and tourists all benefit from the healthy physical and psychological recreation afforded by forests. We must respect the cultural and spiritual connection of First Nations people to their land and stop despoiling their country.

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

We do not need to destroy the homes of rare and wonderful endangered and threatened species to build our own. Our timber needs are 91% supplied by plantations, which can deliver high quality and composite products. We should transition to sustainable industry practices and protect our irreplaceable native forests.

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

The public money and effort spent propping up FC's hardwood division (and giving welfare to the corporations that profit from it) could be far better spent investing in hardwood plantations on already cleared land and encouraging sustainable and speciality private timber production. Cannot plantations and cattle grazing co-exist? - the cattle would benefit from the shade and shelter.

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

I live in the Blue Mountains World Heritage Area and see first hand the economic benefits of of Nature tourism to our towns as well as the advantages of a healthy, natural environment to us and to flora and fauna, to the water we drink and the air we breathe.

Restored State Forests will provide job opportunities. First Nations Ranger programs have been very successful and country and community alike have benefited from their knowledge and management.

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

Climate change is exacerbated by logging, whereas forests that are allowed to mature can store enough carbon to help us reach our climate targets. Logging dries out the landscape but a healthy forest will reduce the impact of climate-driven events like fires and drought.

It is evident there are many good reasons for ending native forest logging and preserving our beautiful natural world in its most unspoiled state for a better present and an assured future.