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

I believe In NSW the Forestry industry is unsustainable, that in economic terms yield is declining, harvest is regularly overestimated, and biomass and carbon storage is extensively reduced. At least 147 native species rely on mature canopy trees and hollows for their survival and these trees are not being spared for the ecological assets they provide. The health and quality of waterways are reduced through the operational practices used and fire threat and intensity are increased. Forestry is unsustainable and costs the NSW taxpayers to subsidise it for jobs that could be provided in plantation forestry and elsewhere and critically deprives us of our unique native forests and their dependent species

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

Environmentally healthy and mature forests clean the air, generate rainfall, and cool the landscape. They are aesthetically important for our connection to nature and beauty. They are also critical for pollinators and play a key role in pollination across the landscape, both inside and outside of forests, 150 threatened species in NSW are directly impacted by logging native forests. Native forest logging compromises many ecosystems and habitats throughout NSW resulting in 269 nationally-listed threatened species. Over many decades we have pleaded for our native forests to be genuinely protected and preserved and all their attributes respected. It is imperative that any further loss must now cease for the sake of the climate and current and future generations.

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

Forestry had 150 years to develop a sustainable timber production system and they've failed to do this. Instead, they've ruthlessly extracted the resource rather than created a circular, sustainable system that doesn't rely on the destruction of priceless, irreplaceable, natural ecosystems. The current model can only be viewed as non-sustainable and destructive. Half of the logs taken from native forests in 2023 were turned into woodchips and exported; 87% of hardwood plantation logs were exported as wood chips - this is totally unacceptable for an advanced society such as ours! The market and demand for native forests are declining rapidly and government should be responding accordingly now.

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

Plantations already provide 91% of Australia's log production, By continuing to subsidise the logging of public native forests the Forestry Corporation remains non-competitive and distorts the market away from the more profitable softwood plantation industry. It is long overdue that we ceased these destructive subsidies.

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

Native forests have benefits to the entire ecology and economy of NSW; from water quality in reservoirs to greater tourism industry opportunities, as well as to carbon storage and abatement. By creating healthy productive ecosystems our societies and the whole planet benefits and long term survival for nature is enhanced. The people of NSW should not be paying millions of dollars to destroy the biodiversity of our state and the critical habitat of threatened species. The native forest hardwood division of the Forestry Corporation operates at a loss that runs into tens of millions of dollars. How can that be justified or considered remotely economical or environmental? We must do better as a state.

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

Native forest logging in NSW is estimated to release 3.6 million tonnes of carbon every year. Ending native forest logging would be the equivalent of removing 840,000 cars from the roads per year, so ending such practices would be immediately effective. Ending native forest logging will also allow previously logged forests to regain lost carbon and make a significant contribution to meeting our emissions targets. It will also put an end to the increased fire risks created by logging as we now know that forests that have not been logged are more resilient to the changing climate and catastrophic fires that are occurring as a consequence of logging creating greater fire dangers. We must immediately do all we can to increase biodiversity with all its benefits and reduce carbon emissions and the dangers from a rapidly changing climate.