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

Scientific research has clearly shown that logging native forests is not sustainable. (please refer to the decades of research by Professor D. Lindenmayer.) Continued logging over decades will ultimately lead to the permanent loss of the whole ecosystem: there is a point in which it cannot recover. Sadly greater gliders have recently been found to be on a faster trajectory to extinction than koalas, due to the need for trees to be 80-100 years old to develop hollows for dens. These are iconic animals but the total ecosystem of a forest is endangered by the wholesale destruction using heavy machinery which is current forestry practice. The 2019/2020 fires demonstrate the urgent need to end native forest logging. They were a wake-up call to urgently accept the science and not continue business as usual. It causes drying out of the land, less water retention in the trees and land, compaction of the soil and ultimately the intensification and total destructiveness of forest fires.

Australia has been designated as a world hotspot for destruction of habitat and has a shameful rate of species extinction. NSW forestry operations are contributing at pace, to this unacceptable record.

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

Forests in NSW have taken millennia to evolve and are very complex from the tiniest micro-organism to the iconic larger mammals. This web of life depends on a mature fauna with which it has co-evolved. Endangered species are part of that delicate web. Forests provide viable water resources and connectivity across ecosystems. The intact existence of these public estates are sanctuaries to local communities and visitors. They are of cultural and spiritual significance to the Aboriginal traditional custodians of their area.

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

Plantation forests are already supplying the majority of building needs for housing. There is no longer any need to log public native forests to build houses.

Plantations can supply our high quality and composite timber products.

Using plantation timber, creates a sustainable industry. Unfortunately a great majority of the timber from native forests is used for pallets and garden stakes which do not have long lives

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

Plantations both softwood and hardwood are the most sustainable option for supplying the building industry. Already they supply over 90% of demand.

Hardwood and softwood plantations already provide 91% of Australia's log production. If subsidies paid to native forest logging industry were redirected to creating more on private land, we would have a sustainable industry and be able to end the destruction of viable habitat.

**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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A Newcastle University Report found Australia's first proposed (and promised by the MIInns govt.) national park for koalas is projected to generate \$1.2 billion in economic output and 9,800+ jobs. Compare this NSW Forestry Corporation needing heavy subsidies from NSW government coffers and being recently found to be a 'serial offender' by the NSW land and environment court. (The taxpayer footed the bill for the prosecution and the defense and the fine). Sadly, NSW forestry corporation is an economic and environmental liability.

The protection and restoration of our native forest estates will help restore water quality, make forests more fire resistant, support the tourist industry and contribute to air quality. There is not always a monetary quantification for clean air, water and nature restoration, but it is truly priceless!

Aboriginal rangers have proved to be invaluable caretakers, in those national estates where they have been employed and would be an asset to NSW native forests.

Healthy native forests provide essential water resources.

- Protecting and restoring State Forests will increase the economic value through tourism, carbon storage, job creation and recreational opportunities.
- The Forestry Corporation is currently financially unsustainable, relying on government support and yielding less timber compared to managed plantations.
- Diverse forest management, particularly Aboriginal models, can enhance the cultural and social value of forests.

**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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Ending native forest logging will immediately stop further biodiversity loss and halt the release of carbon into the atmosphere. This will be an immediate step towards the goal of net zero as well stopping the further march towards climate change and reducing the incidence and severity of wildfires. Instead of releasing the huge amounts carbon into the atmosphere by logging native forests we can leave them standing as great carbon sinks. Should a market be part of this, it will be critical that it is transparent and fully accountable and not just a means to allow new polluting projects to gain approval via offsets.