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

The word 'sustainable' is bandied around in relation to our forest industry. The management of public forests is far from sustainable. Clear proof is the constant fines levied on the Forest Corporation for abuse of regulations. These are weakly dismissed as human error. The reality is that the forest industry is making a mockery of the NSW government, while being highly subsidised and yet unprofitable. It is a myth to pretend forests are renewable and just grow back as before. Come and look in my region to see the reality of the fire prone re-growth.

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

The value of our native forests cant be overstated. It is not possible to log or disturb the forest and expect animals to move on. I've walked through logged forests which look like a bomb has been detonated. Ludicrously there will be a few isolated trees with an H painted on them - presumably to be read by creatures as 'havens' or habitat. One doesnt need to understand wildlife to know the logged areas are deserted. Animals and trees interact in an ecosystem - chunks cant be chopped out without impacting the whole. Hopefully the panel will explore first hand the destruction wrought by the timber industry. Australia shamefully tops the list of developed countries' extinction records and land clearing.

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

As would be made clear by many submitters, the timber plantation sector can provide for all industry and housing needs. Any builder will confirm that softwoods are mainly used for construction. Currently native forests are being logged largely for woodchips exported to China. There are many composite timber products now used economically in modern building. We should have been planting more forests decades ago. It is a tired joke to pretend we need to log forests to build homes.

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

Private native forest should not be logged at all. There is no capacity to monitor cutting down the private timber domain. As mentioned above, regulating the government owned forests is a failure so what hope of controlling destruction on private land. Removing timber from private forests increases fire risk for everyone. We are not in an era when private forestry can be safely expanded. In my Bega Valley Shire, it is wisely prohibited.

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

State forests should be preserved as a crucial environmental asset, attracting tourism and recreation. Aboriginal models of management are of great value and should be supported. However, there would need to be a vast training and recruitment program to make an impact throughout NSW. I personally know several Indigenous people involved in cultural burning, who attest to the large numbers needed for the vast year-round task.

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

The very best way for Australia to meet its emission targets and climate goals is to leave native forests in tact. Forests are desperately needed for carbon sequestration. They cant perform this vital role in bits and pieces. Harvesting in the far south coast has permanently changed the forest. It is far more susceptible to fire and this has been the outcome in recent years. We live in fear of what lies ahead in terms of bushfires. The writing is on the wall. Victoria and WA have done the research. The ANU professors such as David Lindenmayer has clearly provided the scientific proof of what present forest ruination means to the whole country. It is only amount of time until NSW wakes up and follows suit. My community implore the panel to act now to stop destruction of our precious forests.