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

Logging of native forests is not sustainable as it reduces biomass and carbon storage, removes mature trees and their abundance of nectar and browse essential for many species, depletes oldgrowth trees and the hollows that 174 of NSW's species depend upon for dens and nests, increases fire threat and intensity, reduces stream flows, promotes weeds and dieback, and increases erosion and stream pollution.

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

Have you ever BEEN to a forest? The dawn chorus of an intact forest ecosystem welcoming a new day speaks for itself. Who would want to inhabit a world without this? The 2024 NSW Biodiversity Outlook Report identifies that only 50% of the 1000 threatened species and 55% of the more than 100 threatened ecological communities are expected to survive in 100 years. It expects that we will lose 24% of all 6000 of NSW's plants within 100 years. The dawn chorus we know may well be lost to our grandchildren, unless we dramatically change our ways.

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

Timber products can be produced from plantation timber. There is utterly no need for native forest logging. Most native forest logging currently goes to pulp and low value timber products, rather than the shiny wooden floors and beautiful furniture featured on Forestry advertisements. Around half gets exported as wood chips.

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

To pretend forest logging is an asset to our economy is ludicrous, and a lie. Forestry NSW was propped up by tax payer money to the tune of \$110 million over the past 15 years (2008/9 to 2022/3). In 2022/23 the losses were \$15 million, meaning it cost \$1,281 per hectare to log our public heritage, and the homes of Koalas and Greater Gliders.

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

Forests are the lungs of our earth. They are of far greater value left standing than logged. Climate change is well underway - keeping our forests is one of the simplest ways to sequester carbon.

Biomass in forests logged over 20 years ago, is less than half of the biomass in forests which have not been logged.

Avoided emissions is one benefit of stopping logging, the greatest benefit comes from allowing regenerating forests to recover their lost carbon from the atmosphere. The carbon stored in logged forests has more than halved, with repeated logging keeping it below this level. Just by stopping logging the growing trees can slowly regain their lost carbon. One 2008 assessment concluded that

stopping logging of forests in south-east Australia could sequester the equivalent of 24% of Australia's then annual net greenhouse gas emissions, for the next century. A single 100 year old tree (100 cm diameter) can store as much

carbon as 270x10 year old trees (10 cm diameter). The bigger they get, the more carbon they sequester and store, with a 150 cm diameter tree storing as much carbon as 724x10cm diameter trees.

Logging increases fire risk by drying out forests and encouraging regrowth of dense young trees, with low canopies, which burn much more readily than old mature trees with a canopy many metres up.