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

Sustainability of our forestry operations in native forests, particularly old growth forests is an illusion. This matter is no longer just an emotional argument but rather an urgent appeal to immediately halt logging operations before it is just too late. Our industrial style logging operations take away the integrity of the forest as a living entity leading to an environment that is more prone to fire, habitat loss for animals and indeed water security. We rely on our softwood and hardwood plantations for most of our timber requirements and it is no secret that the majority of logs harvested in our forests is sadly chipped and exported. We should continue to promote our plantation grown timbers on land we have cleared and that would be sustainable, leaving what little of our pristine forests remains and endeavour to limit the extinction crisis of our plants and animals we are presently experiencing.

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

Forests are a delicate living and breathing entity that necessitates as little disturbance as possible to maintain their integrity. They hold significant cultural and spiritual value for the original settlers of our lands and should also for our present day communities. To be close to Nature encompassing the energy, vibrancy, and indeed spirituality of an old growth forest should not be a privilege but a simple right.

We need to also think of our forests as being critical in generating rainfall, creating a cooler landscape and clean air as well as being an important carbon sink.

Logging our precious forests only increases the risk of fire and that has been proven scientifically in the wake of the devastating fires we have experienced in recent years. And there are over 150 animal species in NSW alone that are critically endangered because of our thoughtless activities and our water security is put at risk. Greed and ignorance just cannot continue in the way it has been.

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

We are not relying on our native forest logging operations for building and construction timber as only 9% of the total log production in Australia for 2023 came from this source and the damage caused in the process was not sustainable.

Of the logs harvested half were turned into wood chips and exported. So much for the value we put on our native timbers!

The fact is we rely upon our plantations timbers for industry requirements and there is no reason why this cannot be a sustainable industry in the future.

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. There is no sense in subsidising our logging operations in our native forests as this is non competitive and fails to promote private investment into our plantations of hardwood and softwood from which our industries seek.

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

There are many opportunities for the promotion and benefit of our native forests and they far out-way any adhoc disruptive logging operation that is subsidised by taxpayers. We need our forests to be preserved to ensure they continue to support our lives as we know them. Our water is precious and only a forest can ensure water quality be maintained.

Our management and understanding of forests is so important for our very survival and from an economic point of view their value is much greater than a few logs that puts the whole living system at risk.

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

It is understood that by logging native forests it will reduce the amount of stored carbon by more than half of the original value. That is significant and makes a mockery of our climate change targets

Forests that have not been logged are more resilient to the changing climate and the fierce fires that have occurred as a result