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

It is hard to understand how forestry operations in NSW can be sustained when it is currently operating at a loss. If anything, native forest operations need to operate at less intensity which will be a challenge to maintain profitability. I believe that plantation forestry can be both sustainable and profitable.

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

Current practices in native forests are increasing the extinction risk of certain threatened species. Current high intensity practices significantly alter the structure and habitat complexity of forests, which directly affects species with specialised habitat requirements. For example, Greater Gliders require complex habitat with old trees with hollows surrounded by large trees for feeding. Current methods used by forestry seem designed to not detect gliders. As a practicing ecological consultant, I have been surveying forests for greater gliders prior to logging and have found very high densities (e.g. Styx River SF), yet Forestry is unable to find gliders and logs the forest at high intensity. This will significantly increase the risk of local extinctions. The same can be said for other species such as koalas, Hastings River mouse, Mixophyes balbus, Rufous scrub bird, Parma Wallaby and other threatened fauna.

There is no way, in my opinion, that logging in native forests can be carried out economically, in such a way as to maintain or increase these endangered species.

Plantations, on the other hand, can be managed to supply sustainable timber. They can be designed to import biodiversity, particularly where they replace degraded farmland. Even pine plantations provide a functional improvement in the landscape.

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

Has to come from plantations, both hardwood and softwood.

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

Private native forestry should be scrutinised much more closely and by Forestry Corp rather than LLS. Currently PNF is often used as defacto clearing, rather than as a sustainable operation. Investment should continue in both softwood and hardwood plantations, with a substantial increase in research into hardwood plantations.

There should be greater investment in developing plantations on private land in such a way as to integrate them into the existing agricultural enterprise rather than replacing it.

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

Currently doing a very poor job of maximising environmental values and can't break even economically.

I would like to see some State Forests continue to provide timber, but at a much lower and more sustainable yield. High value, low intensity logging could be carried out to provide beautiful Australian timber for high value uses that showcases its unique properties. However, this should only occur if the logging does not destroy the forest structure and diversity and maintains or increases the populations of endangered species that occur there.

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 would be a disaster if current native forests logged for timber were to be included in biodiversity markets, given the level of biodiversity damage caused by native forest logging. If native forest logging were to cease, then state forests could be included in markets in order to provide income for management.