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

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It is critical that any decisions about the future of forestry in NSW clearly distinguish between those State Forests, or portions of State Forests, that contain plantations and those that contain native forests. The NSW Forestry Corporation and forestry organisations have a history of obscuring this critical difference to hide financial losses in native forestry operations and to give the false impression that removing logging from public native forests would end access to wood products for construction and other essential industries.

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

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Given that one of the highest drivers of species loss is habitat loss ceasing logging operations in functional native forest reserves is imperative. As an area of habitat diminishes in size so to does the number of species the high value habitat can support. Leaving hollow trees with a small area of native forest at their base isn't sufficient if the area around them has been cleared. By moving to a model of plantation timber grown on otherwise already degraded land would preserve both the environmental and cultural values of the surviving native forests on NSW forestry land.

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

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Over estimations of available timber by Forestry Corporation NSW lead to the need to then destroy native forests. This must stop. Most wood products can be sourced from plantations. The loss of native forests is unjustified, as alternatives exist for both hardwood and boutique products through recycling and sustainable sourcing. Plantations should ideally established on degraded land instead of further clearing native vegetation.

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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**

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Plantation wood is the best sustainable method of ensuring an enduring supply of wood without causing further damage to a range of threatened species and ecosystems.

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**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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To be a truly sustainable industry it cannot continue to function on a model of destroying native species habitat. Native forest logging has huge annual multimillion dollar losses & multi million dollar subsidies from public purse. These industries must run at a profit and must report the costs of logging plantation wood versus native forest wood separately.

**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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The carbon stored in native forests and soils is well documented. By removing forest all the smaller plants which hold carbon release will release it. Soil quality is degraded and vital fungi killed, which leads to further release of climate changing gases. Forests play a crucial role in maintaining watershed health. Logging can disrupt water cycles, reduce water quality, and lead to increased sedimentation in rivers and streams. The removal of trees affects rainfall interception and groundwater recharge. Retaining native forests as a carbon sink is the best way to realise carbon and biodiversity benefits.