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

It seems that it would stand to reason that we protect old growth forests now and in the future by sacrificing the endless demands of the timber industry. Eliminating the use of old growth forests for the timber industry may limit wood supplies, but it will ensure we have adequate protection of our valuable nutrient supplies and biodiversity. Proper forest husbandry recognises the necessity of selective culling, however, this should not be an excuse to destroy precious ecological sites.

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

For too long the importance of protecting forests in order to pay respect to the cultural values of Australia's First People has been overlooked and under valued. This includes the protection of native species, as the connection between the land and all its inhabitants -including vulnerable flora and fauna- are indelibly linked to Indigenous cultural understanding and world view. When we destroy old growth forests, we destroy, not only the habitats that ensure biodiversity and aid climate control, but the ties of respect that should bind the powers-that-be and the nations that successfully protected and managed the land and its resources for thousands of years. Healthy spiritual beliefs are, after all, beliefs that nourish the best in us; that protect and nurture life and recognise its vulnerability.

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

We are stuck in toxic cycles of consumption, ruled by an economy of exponential growth that devours precious resources. The housing and construction industry needs to consider the amount of waste in the industry if they are going to cease being a toxic part of the economy. Fostering and supporting developing and existing sustainable practices is essential to a healthy future and this includes careful and parsimonious use of the land and its resources.

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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**

Relying on plantations for timber supply is essential, this includes having the patience, foresight, and forbearance to create forest farms that meet the demands for older timber. While this demand needs to be reduced for the most part, some wood over sixty years used sparingly will preserve human appreciation for the beauty of our natural environment. However, recycling of old construction materials is also an important adjunct to building supply and a practice that needs to be developed in tandem with a healthy private native forest industry.

**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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As a government agency, State Forests necessarily needs to follow a 'best practice' model with values that align with the most environmentally sensitive valuations of our precious natural resources. The historical success of Aboriginal forest management practices makes the importance of its inclusion in mainstream practices self evident.

**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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There is ample evidence that old growth forests store significantly more carbon than new forests and are thus essential in the fight to maintain some sort of equilibrium in our severely stressed eco systems. Monitoring any decline in their health seems like a valuable way to monitor the overall health of our environment. Thus, their destruction does away with an important measure of our wellbeing along with all else that is lost when we allow their destruction.