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**Organisation:** N/A

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**Location:** New South Wales

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

Submit that current and future forestry operations in NSW that are based on logging native forests are unsustainable:

- native forests can operate as a carbon sink and assist with meeting our climate targets
- because of the destruction of habitat for wildlife. In 200 years, Australia has sustained a massive mammal extinction rate. Habitat destruction leads to extinction.
- because FCNSW has consistently been found to be in breach of its own regulatory requirements
- because commercial native logging operations of FCNSW are uneconomic given that the FC is subsidised by the NSW government to run at a loss.

However, future operations involving plantation timbers could be assessed for financial sustainability and continuation of FC employment, while moving to a plantation industry established on marginal farming land.

The current system of governance of native forest logging in NSW makes no sense. One government body (NSW EPA) supposedly polices the activities of another, the (NSW FC). Why can't the NSW government decide on a policy position which could eliminate the situation where a body set up to police non government operators for environmental compliance could concentrate on that task without having to be constantly pitted against another arm of government (which is regularly doing the wrong thing)?

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

Spiritually, we need our untouched areas. When it comes to destruction of native vegetation in Australia, enough is enough. Too much has been irrevocably changed since colonial settlement of this country. We lost so much of NSW forests in the 2019/2020 bushfires, how can we even contemplate further destruction through logging?

The destruction left behind by logging operations is heartbreaking and reminiscent of enterprises in third world countries. Massive piles of debris replace a living breathing ecosystem, posing greater susceptibility to fire for the forest and surrounding communities.

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

Query the extent to which these products could not be provided by plantation timbers. Query the quality of timber from native forests given the vast amount of incidental timber material that is destroyed and abandoned as waste in the course of forestry operations.

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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**

In order to achieve environmental outcomes now expected by the community, the NSW government could devote the budget that has been used to subsidise the FC to providing

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incentives to private landowners to help establish timber plantations. NSW state forests should not be cleared to provide areas for plantations as has been done for many years.

**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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Because of historical decisions made in relation to forestry agreements, the land contained in Tallaganda National Park is actually, on average, of a lesser conservation value than the land contained in Tallaganda State Forest. Logging therefore in the state forest is posing a significant threat to various species eg greater gliders which are not informed about national park boundaries and in ignorance of the safest spot to nest. Given the amount of greater glider habitat destroyed by the 2019/2020 bushfires, Tallaganda state forest would appear to be an area relatively unaffected by the fires, where safe haven could be provided for this species. In situations like this, consideration should be given to incorporation of state forests into national parks. There is little to be gained, once native logging ceases, in having a 2 tier system of land management where state forests are managed with the same environmental, economic and social aims as national parks.

**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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If we leave undisturbed what remains of our native forests, and build towards a substantial plantation timber industry on marginal farming land, we will increase our capacity for carbon capture and therefore increase our ability to meet emission reduction targets. Overall, we will 'tree up' more of the country.