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

Native forest logging is not economically sustainable anywhere in Australia. It is scandalous that taxpayer's money is being used to destroy what little is left of our precious native forests, and the benefits they bring to humans and ecosystems.

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

Old growth native forests are very efficient at capturing carbon (see work of Prof Lindenmayer), and the loss of old growth trees through logging is contributing materially to global carbon emissions and the increasingly dangerous climate.

Loss of the hollows and reduction in diversity in native forests is endangering the survival of many important native species NSW, especially koalas, through loss of habitat and food sources. When an area is logged, the animals, birds and plants don't move to neighbouring forest as it is already occupied. The brutal truth is that they die.

Old growth forests are efficient at 'generating' water and water systems are disrupted wherever they are logged, with effects far downstream, including for human water supply in towns.

Old growth forests do not burn readily (see Prof Lindenmayer's research in his book *The Forest Wars*), and are protective against severe, widespread bushfire. Replanted forest after logging is highly vulnerable to bushfires of the kind we saw in 2019-20. It takes over half a century for regrown forest to mature, if it isn't badly burnt.

Traditional Aboriginal land management did not involve any form of forest logging or thinning of trees. Rather in certain landscapes, there was selective, light touch burning to enhance availability of plant and animal food species. Forest logging destroys the environmental balance cultivated in traditional Indigenous land management, and damages their traditional relationship to Country.

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

Research demonstrates that the majority of timber sourced from native forest logging in NSW is exported to Japan as low value woodchips, and used for low value products like pallets. This is a major reason why native forest logging is commercially unviable without taxpayer subsidies. Only a very small percentage of timber from native forests goes to high value use such as furniture making, construction etc. These high value markets are typically supplied from plantation timber or imported timbers.

Ironically because native forest logging is rightly regarded as unsustainable, our most precious timber from old growth native trees doesn't meet criteria for FSC and other international measures of responsible forest stewardship. It therefore can't command the market premiums that sustainable plantation timbers do.

It is heartbreaking that our native forests are being destroyed for no net local commercial benefit.

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

There is a clear alternative to disastrous native forest logging in sustainable plantations, which are commercially viable. Native forest logging should be stopped immediately and the government funds earmarked as wasteful subsidy instead used to assist workers and businesses to transition to plantation operations, regional tourism, or genuine forest protection and regeneration, all of which can be commercially viable options. Given that relatively little timber generated by native forest logging is actually used in Australia, we should have no trouble supplying our local timber needs with a slightly expanded plantation 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

At present NSW State Forests are driving climate change, species extinction and destruction of the environment. It is high time we reoriented State Forests to focus on forest preservation and maintenance, in collaboration with Aboriginal communities on genuine traditional land management models (not spurious 'forest thinning' for which there is no genuine historical basis, and which has been revealed as a form of blackwashing driven by commercial forestry interests in Victoria - no doubt the forestry industry will be attempting to use the same model in NSW forests).

This could include productive regional employment in native forest regeneration and management, bushfire protection and tourism.

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

The carbon offset industry in Australia has been exposed as riddled with corruption and fraud. Genuine forest regeneration and preservation could offer a basis for legitimate carbon offsets. Well managed forest regeneration would contribute to mitigation of climate change, preservation of water supply, bushfire mitigation, biodiversity enhancement and many other benefits. In essence, humans don't have a future on this planet, and there will be not much of an economy either, if we continue to destroy what's left of old growth native forests. It is urgent that we reorient ourselves now to preservation.