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

Logging in native forests is patently unsustainable. When native forests are logged it is indiscriminate - everything is destroyed including the older trees, removing hollows and other habitat for forest wildlife, such as the koala and the Great Glider. The current levels of logging are criminal. We must prevent removal of protections for key habitat. If things continue as they are currently, it is almost certain that it will greatly accelerate the extinction of forest dependent wildlife. This was obviously made so much worse by the catastrophic conflagration of 2019-20 which made this situation much more urgent and serious.

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

Native forests are vital for threatened species as many rely on mature, intact, functioning forests. However it is not just fauna who benefit from the environment. Regional communities also benefit, as forests provide water, the quality and flow of which is obviously important. There are also recreational opportunities for locals and tourists. We must also acknowledge the cultural and spiritual significance, especially for indigenous communities. Habitat which support biodiversity and ecosystem health is critical for a future.

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

There isn't any need to continue to log public native forests to build houses, there are plantations which supply high quality and composite timber products. We need to use plantation timber as this reduces pressure on native forests, supporting sustainable industry practices. Surely two hundred and something years has been enough time to grow timber for our needs? Continuing native forest logging and land clearing at this stage just seems like a challenge or pure spite.

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

Hardwood and softwood plantations already provide 91% of Australia's log production, so investment in hardwood plantations on already cleared land would supply timber products for the future. We need to end the ludicrous funding of public forest subsidies which would then boost sustainable timber production on private lands.

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

When we have healthy native forests they provide essential water resources and by protecting and restoring State Forests we will increase the economic value through tourism, carbon storage, job creation and recreational opportunities. Surely this is a win win situation?

The Forestry Corporation is currently financially unsustainable, relying on government support and yielding less timber compared to managed plantations. If diverse forest management is used particularly Aboriginal models, it can enhance the cultural and social value of forests.

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

When logging in native forests, large amounts of carbon are released, accelerating climate change and the wild instabilities that we are experiencing and the huge costs, losses and deaths caused worldwide. If we stop logging it allows forests to recover, helping them store more carbon and support climate goals. Healthy forests are essential for reducing the impacts of climate change like wildfires and drought. By stopping logging, forests can play a large role in mitigating climate risks and supporting opportunities in carbon markets.