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

One of the key points regarding the sustainability of this industry (if we want to have one) is certainty. The industry has been kicked around as a political football for so long with areas being locked away from the industry and new restrictions being imposed regularly that it is probably near impossible to implement a meaningful plan for true sustainability into the future. For the industry to succeed into the future and have credibility there must be a point where every conceivable area that needs permanent protection is recognised and set aside and let the remaining areas be managed with a view to providing the high quality timber that native forests produce while still adhering to the strict protocols already in place. Another important component towards sustainability would be to keep the areas already designated as native plantation which have had most or all of their environmental values compromised available to the industry. A combination of these two factors would help supply both high and lower value products to the industry. Overall I don't necessarily believe the industry is sustainable on the North Coast without an expansion of plantation or the buying out of some customers. Especially considering the impact of the proposed koala park, whatever that may be

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

Obviously all these values need to be considered and protected to the best of everyone's ability. Without this the industry would have no credibility or social license. The important thing for the industry is that these areas of value are recognised and permanent and not constantly being changed

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

My understanding from being involved in the industry is that demand for timber products is not being met at the moment resulting in higher inflation and in some cases slower construction outcomes

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

The expansion of hardwood and softwood plantations is imperative for supplying the industry with a lot of the lower quality timber which would hopefully allow the true native forest to supply the higher quality products while having less impact

Public submission

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

I believe State Forests are already doing a good job in all the above mentioned areas however there is always room for improvement. Some new ideas or input from other entities would hopefully lead to even better credibility going forward

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

Not really my field however I can imagine, considering the vast areas of forests there would be potential for carbon capture benefits. With regard to biodiversity, as well as the obvious environmental benefits it is this biodiversity that helps produce high quality native timber