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

I believe native forest logging makes no sense, economically or socially. I understand that Forestry Corporation's current forestry operations and management cost me as a taxpayer millions of dollars every year, to prop up an industry which is destroying our heritage. Current forest practices are simply not sustainable. I have seen how our public native forests are being felled, with complete disregard for the important values they contain, socially, spiritually and economically " the services they provide to NSW. I have witnessed NSW public native forests being logged with ever-increasing frequency. I see how clear-felling has common place. Current intensive logging uses huge, heavy, unobtrusive modern harvesting machinery, which is extremely damaging to the earth beneath and localised streamlines. The big machinery destroys habitats of forest-dependent species; it leaves vast areas of denuded with the forest floor exposed to the elements and vulnerable to sediment transport, weed invasion and bushfire. After harvesting, I have sadly seen the careless damage done to the few remaining trees and root zones, from logging machinery. I have seen puny singular trees left remaining alone, to the elements and have been told these were left as 'seed trees'. Nonsense! Seed trees on my farm were old, strong trees, left by earlier true foresters who truly knew how to care for the forest.

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

Sadly, Australia is the 'extinction capital' of the world! Threatened species in NSW need much stronger protection, which would be possible if the government strengthened the EPBC Act " NOW! " Not in months' time. What is taking place in our native forests is environmental vandalism, driving the endangered Koala and Greater Glider, Coastal Emu and many more forest-dependent wildlife much further towards extinction. An immediate logging moratorium should be placed especially over the core greater glider and koala habitats, while this FIAP process is underway. Illegal logging practices (chopping down centuries-old trees " and claiming 'by mistake') along with totally inadequate pre-logging wildlife survey, are, sadly the modus operandi for Forestry Corporation. Under current rules, the volume of logs taken is considered more important than endangered species. This must stop now.

I live in an area proudly populated by a large and strong Indigenous People " the Gumbaynggirr Nation. They have endured the loss of significant sites and the devastation of many sacred areas, lost to rampant logging. Please listen to their pleas to protect sites of Indigenous significance, and stop the practices which have shamed me, to learn about. For example, the extinguishing of a sacred fire set up to anchor the energy of Elders who camped there, and begged forestry workers to stop destroying a highly important Song Line.

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

I believe the public are lied to, about WHERE our large trees end up! My understanding is that

50% of the hardwood timber logged from public native forests is exported as wood chips, much ending up in China, pulped into toilet paper. Others go to pallets! We watch truckloads head up the Highway to Woodburn to fuel biomass power generation. I believe most of our timber for housing is imported. Where is the demand for timber, in mining? Where is the demand for timber in transport? The 'demand' possibly comes from the powerful lobby wanting to keep the trucking industry going. Demand in retail? Surely Australia can come up with ways to VALUE ADD the beautiful timber we have available, and not send it to pulp!

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

I am aware that, since the 1980's, pleas for truly ecologically unsustainable native forest management have been ignored by various NSW governments. The inaccurate Wood Supply Agreements cited over-estimations of available timber by NSW Forestry Corporation. Then, when the Agreements cannot be met, the taxpayers pay compensation for the 'shortfall'. This has led to more intense logging, along with pressure on our governments to weaken the environmental protection legislations. In 2018, the Coalition state government removed the previous protections for mature trees, and changed the rules, enabling intensified logging, as a way to harvest more timber from native forests, in order to meet the falsely inflated wood supply agreements. I have learned that timber yields have declined by 40% in State Forests since 2010 from 1.3 million tonnes to 0.8 million tonnes in 2023. Yields are currently only 61% of the sustained yields claimed. The horrific loss of native forests in the 2019/20 fires has not even been considered in Forestry Corporation's yield estimates. I believe that have scant regard for truly sustainable forest management, and are desperately holding on to an industry which really needs to wake up to the possibilities available through nature tourism, let alone our duty to conserve our unique flora and fauna.

Private Native Forestry can have its place, but NSW needs far stronger protections of areas on private property which include Endangered Ecological Communities. More research, support to property owners, and ongoing monitoring of private forestry practices needs to be invested, and implemented.

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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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

Scientists have long reported how ecologically intact forests work to sequester and store atmospheric carbon and in turn, address climate change. We need to preserve native forests, so they can continue this critical function. Reports show that native forest logging in NSW releases 3.6 million tonnes of carbon annually, which in turn has reduced NSW forests' storage capacity by more than 50%. Native forests need to be appreciated as a significant and critical component in addressing the challenges of climate change. Our native forests should be protected from any further logging in order for them to recover their capacity, and regain their power to buffer us from future climate disasters like droughts, floods and raging bush fires " all of which have increased commensurate with the logging of public native forests.