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

The current state of NSW forestry is totally unsustainable. Yields are down 40%, and those yields are only able to be achieved by removing protections for most mature trees and increasing logging intensity. The logging of mature trees removes enormous amounts of habitat and feed for the wildlife that make healthy regrowth possible. It's not sustainable as it reduces biomass and carbon storage, depletes old growth trees and the hollows that 174 of NSW's species depend upon for dens and nests, increases fire threat and intensity, reduces stream flows, promotes weeds and dieback, and increases erosion and stream pollution.

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

NSW has 269 nationally listed threatened forest species, all of which are staring down the barrel of extinction if the logging of native forests continues as it has been. Forests build soil, clean our air and water, cool the land and provide habitat for pollinators. They are extremely important areas for people to get away to, to ease stress, reconnect with nature and re-energise. They are incredibly important places for people, spiritually. From what I understand, many Indigenous Australians feel a great responsibility for Country (including its natural ecosystems), and feel that they belong to Country, rather than Country belonging to people. We can't continue to desecrate the natural world without diminishing ourselves.

The environment is, in many ways, very resilient due to its extreme complexity evolved over millions of years. But if we continue to snip away at the threads of life, at some point it's all going to unravel.

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

Native hardwoods comprised 2.4 million (9%) of Australia's log production of 25 million cubic metres in 2023, with half this exported as woodchips. Saw and veneer logs comprised just 8% of the 8.5 million cubic metres of logs obtained from hardwood plantations, with 87% exported as woodchips. There is no longer any need to log public native forests to build houses. With a change in emphasis we can satisfy our hardwood needs with sawn timber and composite timber products from existing plantations.

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

Without competition from subsidised public forests there will be an increased incentive for selective logging of speciality purpose hardwoods from private forests.

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

There are 2 million hectares of State Forests in NSW that provide water for numerous town reservoirs, have the potential to contribute to increased tourism, and take-up and store carbon. All these real economic benefits will improve if logging is stopped. In 2023 Forestry Corporation lost \$15 million on their hardwood operations, that's a cost of \$1,281 for each hectare logged. This is despite being paid \$31 million for their community service obligations that year, and obtaining tens of millions in regular equity injections. We should not be paying to degrade forests and log the homes of threatened species. Public forests are of greater economic benefit for water yields, tourism and carbon storage than they are for logging. It is in the best interest of taxpayers to stop logging of public native 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

Native forest logging in NSW releases 3.6 million tonnes of carbon (CO₂) per year, which is equivalent to the annual emissions of 840,000 cars. The volume of carbon stored in logged forests has been more than halved. Stopping logging will enable forests to regain their lost carbon and make a significant contribution to meeting our climate targets. As shown by the 2019/20 wildfires, increasing droughts and fires due to climate heating are already having a significant impact on trees, forest species and rainforests. It is essential that logging stop to allow forests to reduce the impacts of climate heating by removing CO₂ from the atmosphere, and recover their integrity to better withstand future disasters.