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

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Firstly I would like to say this question is in my opinion completely disingenuous.

It is a known fact that in a little over two hundred years we have destroyed 29 million hectares of forest and woodland in NSW and degraded a further 9 million hectares (from paper in ANU College of Science Ward M, Lindenmayer D, and Watson J 2024). This amounts to the loss of 60% of our native forest. How can anyone even suggest that with such a huge loss already any more logging could be sustainable? Surely sustainable should mean as trees are lost they are replaced. This is clearly not the case. Simply planting more trees is not enough to regenerate forest as a forest is a whole ecology not just trees and all the other species that co-exist with the trees are also destroyed by logging. And sadly we do not really understand how all these species interact, for example it is relatively recently that we have discovered the importance of fungi in forests. Because forests provide habitat for many other species - animals, bird, plant insect fungi etc destruction of trees affects all these other species as well.

It is shameful that Australia has one of highest rates of extinctions of mammals in the world and this is largely due to logging our native forests. Even the once numerous koala is now listed as endangered. This is truly horrific. Animals like greater gliders, pygmy possums, owls and many others are dependent on hollows in trees for their homes. Hollows only begin to form when trees are 100 years old. Forestry typically logs every 30 or so years, thus there is no chance for hollows to form. 150 species in NSW are at risk of extinction due to logging (article Ward Lindenmayer et al August 2024 Conservation Science and Practice)

There is considerable evidence that intact forests are actually less flammable in bush fires which is another reason that current forestry practices are unsustainable.

The destruction of native forests also affects our water supply as forests store water -both lessening flooding risks and increasing water supply during droughts.

Not sure if this is relevant to this section but in terms of sustainability of the planet with looming climate emergency keeping forests is a vital part of not increasing emissions.

Forestry and The NSW government should be consulting ecologists about how to regenerate our forests not trying to deviously find ways to keep on destroying them. If its about jobs there would probably be a lot more jobs in trying to repair the damage that's already been done than in sending in huge machines to destroy what is left.

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

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Again I find the question disingenuous.

Why does any living thing need to have "cultural value". The value of the forest and all living in it is that it was here before us and should still be here but we humans have been systematically destroying it. It seems to me a highly immoral attitude to assume that human "needs" overrides the right to life of all other species on earth. Most indigenous cultures including Australia's first nations peoples recognize this and show more respect to the natural world than so called

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"civilized " people's. We are failing to understand we are not "above" nature we are part of it and dependent on the natural world for our own survival.

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

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I think it is time we start to seriously rethink our needs for building materials and how we maintain our natural environment. While I am not an expert or an engineer it seems to me that we should be exploring as many alternatives to native timber as we can for housing construction etc. For example bamboo grows quickly and can be used in many building situations. Timber should be recycled much more than it is. I live in an old house and we recently reused some of the old weatherboards and the builders said they would last another 100 years yet mostly old timbers are just thrown away. We need to change the way we look at expense- if native timber was charged at the rate it should be then it would in fact be much cheaper to reuse timber and use plantation timbers.

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

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Plantations should have been planted continuously over the last 200 years so it would take a while to meet timber needs now but in my opinion this has to be done and we need to find other ways of coping until the plantations are ready.

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**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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State Forests has proved to be very unreliable and dishonest in their dealing with the public so I think there needs to be a lot of change. They have had numerous breaches and destroyed lots of precious areas of habitat. I think their social license is seriously damaged. Many of the things they claim they do to "manage" forests actually cause more harm than good for example they claim that "thinning" forests lessens fire danger when the opposite has been proven to be true. the term forest management is actually bizarre to me as a healthy forest does not need to be "managed" it is self sustaining all the different species work together to maintain the forest.

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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**

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Intact unlogged native forests store carbon while logging release huge amounts of emissions. Simply stopping native forest logging would go a long way towards reaching our 2030 reduction targets.

Its time to stop "using" forests and start leaving them alone to look after themselves and regenerate. Probably some weeding etc could help and maybe foresters could be trained in bush regeneration. Forests left alone will do a great job in realising carbon and biodiversity benefits as well as mitigating and adapting to climate change risks.