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

Our members can see that the logging of our old trees is not sustainable. It removes tree hollows and other habitats which are important to many of our native animal survival and leads to an unprecedented loss to the biodiversity and the extinction of native forest dependent wildlife. The situation became obviously more serious and urgent due to the extensive massive destruction done by the 2019/20 fires.

Illegal logging practices and totally inadequate pre-logging wildlife surveys have become the norm for Forestry Corporation, who under the current rules, consider the extraction of logs much more important than preserving endangered species and their habitat. These practices must stop. While the FIAP process is underway there should be an immediate logging moratorium placed over the core Greater Glider and Koala habitats.

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

Our members view the continual logging and destruction of our native forests and it's habitats as being severely detrimental to the health and survival of many of our forest dependent flora and fauna which rely on intact forest habitats. We view this wholesale destruction as being clear threat to our native forest's stunning biodiversity and longevity. Continuation of these activities will result in irreparable damage to our historic wildlife diversity which includes the Koala, Greater Glider, Powerful Owls, Sooty Owl, Greater Glider and many other valued unique animals to these important and complex environments. Our unique native animals are rapidly diminishing and many are in danger of extinction, priority should take place to ensure their long term healthy existence and development.

Our biodiverse forests have a special attraction for environment conscience recreation and regional communities, such as bushwalking ,tourism and maintain stream water quality. Indigenous communities place a high spiritual and cultural significance to many of our forests.

We sincerely ask you to see an immediate end to the destruction of our remaining native forests.

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

Our extensive timber plantations are able to supply high quality timber and composite timber products for housing which no longer ensures the need to log native forests. Sustainable plantation timber should reduce the strain on native forest logging and so support employment in sustainable industry practices.

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

Plantations of softwood and hardwoods currently supply 91% of Australia's log productions.

Our timber needs into the future can be better met by adopting high value hardwood plantations on already cleared lands .

Sustainable timber industry production on private lands can be boosted by ending public forest subsidies.

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

The Forestry Corporation relies on Govt. support and is currently financially unsustainable. It is yielding less timber than managed plantations.

The economic value of State Forests can be increased by protection and restoration for tourism, recreational opportunities, job creation and carbon storage. The loss of our unique wildlife is untenable there must be a serious review of forestry practices.

Essential water resource can be improved by healthy 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

Large amounts of carbon are released with the logging of native forests contributing to climate change.

Escalating scientific research into climate change is revealing the importance of reducing our targets and urging policy makers to focus on emission reduction rather than by capture or removal of CO₂ from the atmosphere. Temporary overshoots of the 1.5C global target are predicted to be more damaging than previously realised. Stopping the logging will play a large role in mitigating climate risk. Healthy forests store more carbon and are essential for reducing the effects of climate change.

WE are appalled with the over destruction of our forests and we are convinced that it is time for the government to prioritise conservation and climate action and demand that there should be a shift in the forestry industry towards a model that protects our environment and our future.