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Organisation: Hurford Hardwood Kempsey

Location: New South Wales

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

Hurford Hardwood Kempsey is a hardwood processing mill that employs close to 50 employees. The mill produces sawn timber for the housing market, predominantly flooring and decking, The supply of timber to the mill is native forest timbers. The supply mix is 45% private native resource to 55% State Forest resource.

The timber industry relies in the sustainability of forest management. We are confident that the regulation of the forests and the work that goes into a harvest operation ensures this sustainability. Beyond this, we are proud that the logs that come into our mill are processed to maximise the high value sawn boards. However, all the log, down to the saw dust is used as a product. There is no waste from the logs.

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

The forests in our area are part of the identity of the region. The timber industry is part of the local identity. The forests provide recreation, amenity and industry. Harvesting the forests sustainably and using the logs responsibly means that the values of the forest are realised.

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

Demand for timber products is such that all the log down to the sawdust is used. The market for sawn hardwood timber is constant. The drive for housing construction with increased population will put further pressure on the market.

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

The timber supplied to the mill can't be changed for plantation softwood such as pine as the products specifications can't be met by pine timber. Hardwood plantation timber may be viable in the future, but the logs from the estate now are not mature enough in size or timber property to mill flooring or decking. Moreover, the hardwood estate is not large enough in area to meet the needs of the market.

The mill processes 45 % of its logs from the private resource. There wont be enough private forest timber to feed the mills and market in the state should the native forest timber resource close.

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

It is the best interest of the industry to manage the forests responsibly. The responsible management of state owned forests to date has ensured that environmental, economic and social outcomes have been, and continue to be delivered. Native forest timbers should be harvested from State 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

Continuing to manage the forest for the timber resource ensures the regeneration of the forest and maximum sequestration of carbon. The products milled continue to store carbon in application, the products produced at the mill are last the lifetime of the building they are installed in.

The strong reguation of State Forests and the cyclic harvesting and regeneration of the forest whilst provideing habitiabt and biodicersity valuse make State Forests perfect for carbon and biodicersity credit markets.