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

I work as a dump man in the selective harvest native timber industry in the state forests of NSW. I see daily, and am a member of a crew, that practice selective single tree harvesting methods to thin, and vastly improve native hardwood forests for the future. In my professional opinion, as a full time on the ground timber worker, this is one of the, if not the most sustainable industries we have. Its has been harvested for over 100 years and over that time, practices and legislations have been implemented that will only serve to make this industry even more sustainable heading into the future.

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

Environmental and cultural issues are taken into consideration in the most early stages of the planning procedure to provide the highest level of protection to any and all threatened species and aboriginal cultural heritage sites and values. And as a timber worker, I have seen these practices change and evolve over the years into a set of practices that I am proud to work with.

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

The timber that is sustainable harvested in my local area stays local and employs local people in the regions. It is used for everything from firewood to the most vividly stunning architectural timber beams. During a time of housing shortage it seems madness to even consider to question the need for timber in the housing construction industry as the most readily available and sustainable type of construction material. Let us not forget timber pallets, that are cuts from the lowest grade of log harvested, and turned into a product that is used in every supply chain in this country. Chep pallets currently have a pallet that has been in circulation for over 30 years.

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

The softwood and hardwood plantations, and the private native forestry are essential in meeting the timber supply needs of the present and the future

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

The best way to use forests to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and sequester carbon is to have a booming, healthy and growing forest. And the best way to promote growth and health in the first is to selectively log the forest