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

Native forest logging is unsustainable in terms of the future of the industry, the various species that share the space and the larger environment. The Forestry Corporation estimates of the amount of harvestable timber are consistently exaggerated. In fact the yield from public native forests has declined by 40% since 2010. Logging of native forests reduces biomass and carbon storage. Also removing mature trees also removes valuable food sources and hollow-bearing trees. It should be noted that protections for mature trees were removed in 2018 and logging was intensified. 174 species in NSW rely on hollows for dens and nests. More species extinctions could be expected as a result. Native forest logging increases fire threat and intensity. It also increases the penetration of weeds and other invasive species. It reduces the function and health of waterways.

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

150 threatened species in NSW are directly impacted by logging native forests along with many ecosystems and habitats. Native forests are of cultural and spiritual value for First Nations people. They have an on-going connection to native forests, the forest landscapes and the animals that inhabit them. The forests are an integral part of cultural practice and knowledge.

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

Native forest logging produces much destruction for little gain. Native forest logging accounted for only 9% of the total log production in Australia during 2023 and it contributes only 2.4 million of the total 25 million cubic metres for that year. Alarmingly half of the logs removed from native forests in that year were turned into woodchip and exported. Similarly 87% of hardwood plantation logs were exported as wood chips. It can be concluded that hardwood sourced from native forests or plantation are no longer necessary for any of the uses outlined in this section. Sawn and treated softwood logs and composite timber products are being used as substitutes for current uses for native forest and plantation hardwoods. Thus we are seeing the market and demand for native forests declining.

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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**

Plantations now provide 91% of Australia's log production. Clearly a higher proportion of plantation logs could be used as saw and veneer logs, rather than the wasteful practice of turning them into woodchip. Subsidised logging of public native forests by the Forestry Corporation has had the effect of distorting the market away from more profitable softwood plantation investments. The more luxury end of hardwood timbers should be selectively harvested from private plantations and under strict conditions.

**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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Currently the native forest division of the Forestry Corporations operates at a loss of tens of millions of dollars. This means that the residents of this state are paying millions of dollars to destroy the biodiversity and critical habitat for threatened species in our state. It makes no sense at all. The native forests have a much greater value to the public if left alone. They have tangible benefits to the entire ecology and economy of NSW. First Nations Ranger Programmes have been very successful at managing the recovery and health of native forests and such programmes should be expanded.

**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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Native forest logging in itself in NSW releases about 3.6 million tonnes of carbon every year. Ending native forest logging would be the equivalent to removing 840 thousand cars from the roads per year. Logging reduces the amount of stored carbon and ending it will allow previously logged forests to regain lost carbon and make a significant contribution to meeting our now seemingly impossible emissions targets. Continued logging in native forests contributes to climate change which in turn drives increased risks to forest health. Unlogged forests are more resilient to climate change and catastrophic fires which are a consequence of it.