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

By definition, the logging of old growth forests is unsustainable. Some of the trees logged are hundreds of years old and may never grow again due to the change in habitat due to logging operations.

Old growth logging is also economically unsustainable and subsidised by taxpayers.

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

An immediate halt to logging should be imposed on the habitat areas that are home to the endangered Greater Gliders and koalas in northern NSW.

Forestry Corporation NSW has been intensively targeting some of the most critical koala habitat remaining in Australia despite the planning for a Great Koala National Park across parts of the Mid-north Coast. Over 18,800 hectares of core koala habitat is currently being logged or is scheduled for logging within this area.

Over 11,000 hectares of Greater Glider habitat is currently being logged or is scheduled for logging in the near future. Some examples are Tallaganda, Badja,

Styx River and Tuggolo State Forests. Community surveys over the last 12 months have found a total of 571 Greater Gliders and 154 den trees using on-ground spotlighting and thermal drone surveys. These surveys are ongoing and indicate that there are high densities of Greater Gliders within these areas. If logging continues, many of these Greater Gliders will be killed.

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

The demand for timber products can be met by plantation timber. It is unethical to use centuries old trees in vital wildlife habitats for human consumption when alternative timber that causes less damage is available.

Approximately 90% of Australia's timber needs are already being met by current plantations. The remaining 10% can be satisfied by stopping the export of unprocessed plantation wood and improving the domestic management of existing plantations. There is no need to log public forests to build houses. Products from NSW logging operations are mostly woodchips for export and other low value products (such as pallets and stakes).

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

As explained in point 3 above, an end to native forest logging is possible. In fact, the transition to a plantation-based industry is nearly complete, with approximately 90% of Australia's timber needs already being met by current plantations.

The remaining 10% can be satisfied by stopping the export of unprocessed plantation wood and improving the domestic management of existing plantations.

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 role of our native forests should not involve the short term goal of unsustainable and uneconomic wood production. These forests have a critical role in carbon storage, regulating the water cycle, providing critical wildlife and flora habitat and reducing fire risk. They also benefit humans by providing space for recreation and spiritual connection. These forests are not just for this generation to exploit. Politicians and policy makers should be thinking of the future of these forests and their role and value for subsequent generations.

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

Everything should not be measured by its economic value (although measuring old growth logging by its economic value would mean shutting the industry down now).

Native forests are priceless, literally. A price cannot be put on the benefits they bestow: they are oxygen factories, carbon dioxide consumers, habitats of biodiversity, and places of great beauty. The carbon offset industry is under scrutiny and its efficacy in actually mitigating climate change is questionable. Unproved carbon and biodiversity markets should not be factored into decisions made about native forests.