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

Logging native forest is not sustainable at the current time, as we are in a situation of climate and biodiversity crises. Native Forests, when undisturbed, act as valuable carbon sinks. There is a common misconception that this is in the trees' wood, when in fact the majority of carbon stored by old growth forests is within the soil. This is due to the massive biodiversity and organic material the soil holds in our forest floor - and this is not seen in disturbed forest or plantation timber. Indeed, it can take 100 years undisturbed for this rich carbon storage system to re-establish. In the current climate crisis, we simply cannot afford to keep logging the old growth forest that remains. No amount of "offsetting" can make up for the damage it causes.

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

As you should be aware, trees that bear hollows that are critical habitat for many threatened and endangered Australian animals take over 100 years to mature. Native Forests need to be left undisturbed to prevent the loss of our unique plant and animal species and halt the ever-worsening biodiversity crisis that we are causing due to - in large part - habitat loss.

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

Timber can be and should be taken from plantation grown trees. Plantation timber industries can and should be expanded as quickly as possible to meet demand

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

As much native forest as possible should be regenerated and protected if we are to avert climate change catastrophe. This will involve private and public forest stewardship. Timber needs are a secondary concern to a climate that can continue to support civilisation for future generations, and this critical issue cannot be left for future generations for any longer. We are on a precipice

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

As above

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

As above