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

Wood is still being extracted, but the amount of large, high-quality trees is clearly not being sustained, and the amount of tree hollows, biodiversity, and forest diversity is demonstrably not being sustained. A forest is more than wood! Harvested trees are getting smaller, selective logging has been replaced by high intensity logging. That there was a perceived need to increase the diameter of blackbutt allowed to be harvested, and to reduce the riparian widths protecting streams strongly suggests that the operations are not sustainable. The use of heavy machinery and pesticides to log destroys groundcover, and exposes soil and poisons waterways. While more and more farmers are changing practices to prevent soil ever being left bare, forestry has not. Clearfelling is inherently not ecologically sustainable.

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

Forest communities are good in and of themselves, not everything should stand at the convenience of humans. We have cleared half the forests since colonisation, the fires destroyed more. What is left is vital habitat, and the few tree hollows left are vital for many species, AND the shelter and food needed around those hollows. A 50m buffer is pathetic, what hollow dependent creature can survive in a 50m radius patch? There is no effective protection for streams, or the creatures that live in them, I have witnessed the siltation that follows logging, and the infestation with weeds in creek lines as the light floods in.

Some plantations also have high ecological values. Some are actually recovering native forest as the seeded trees did not take. Other areas they connect areas of high biodiversity. Successful flooded gum plantations are still high value koala habitat, and their replacement with blackbutt plantations is a disaster for koalas.

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

Very little native forest timber ends up in high value construction materials. As people become more aware of the ecological devastation being wrought in areas like the proposed Great Koala National Park that will decline further, as is the demand for power poles and even pallets. Bamboos and plants like hemp are well placed to provide some products, to complement softwood and plantation timbers. Several studies well known to the committee argue that native forest logging in NSW is being subsidised by the public.

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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**

Private native forestry also needs to be seriously examined and better regulated to ensure that one environmental disaster isn't simply replaced by another. Softwood plantations have a role to play in suitable climates on already cleared land, and softwood timber is already being heavily used. Bamboo and hemp should also be seriously investigated.

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Hardwood plantations on degraded land have a place, but must not be created by converting native forest. Ideally they will be mixed species hardwoods for better ecological outcomes, and market resilience.

In all cases, clearfell logging needs to be replaced by something selective, which allows for mixed age forest to develop, and soil health to be maintained.

**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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There is no economy on a degraded planet. Environmental regeneration must come first. Any economic benefits that can flow from that ought to benefit the whole public, since forests are a public asset, instead of concentrating more wealth in the hands of a few. The creation of management models which incorporate Aboriginal insights and scientific discoveries to manage forests as they now are, in the climate that now exists, are essential. The unceded sovereignty of forest lands needs to be taken with the utmost seriousness in establishing decision making processes into 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**

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Carbon and biodiversity markets are bullshit. We are way past the point where we can offset carbon emissions and talk about net emissions, we need actual emission reductions. Same for biodiversity. The perversity in several models, where it is more economically rewarding to degrade (or log) land, then apply for credits to restore it, needs to be addressed urgently, as it does for soil carbon on farms. From personal experience, our property has zero value as a biodiversity offset, because it is in fantastic condition. Only if we logged or otherwise degraded it, we could then get money to restore it! So degraders are rewarded with double dipping, and conservationists and responsible farmers are penalised for all their hard work in the past!