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

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Native forest logging is unsustainable for several reasons:-

1. Native forest logging has been scientifically shown to increase forest fire risk, thereby reducing the harvestable timber thereafter. It also increases erosion and river pollution and weeds and feral species.
2. Native forest logging is dangerous for native fauna, as removing mature trees takes away valuable food sources and hollows for nesting, for example, the swift parrot is a species likely to become extinct because of logging native forests in NSW. The protection of mature trees from removal was removed in 2018.
3. The yield from public native forests has declined by 40% since 2010, showing that it is not possible to rely on forest regrowth to keep the industry going, instead continuing to log will result in the disappearance of native forests and fauna.

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

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Healthy intact forests are critical to the environment, they generate rainfall, cool the landscape and clean the air. Native fauna depends on intact forests, including one hundred and fifty threatened species that are directly impacted by logging native forests. An example is the very rare Coastal Emu on the North Coast of NSW, whose habitat was recently logged right up until a nest of eggs was discovered in the coup. Both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people value intact forests for cultural and scientific reasons and for the observation and appreciation of Australia's unique flora and fauna.

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

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In 2023 native forests accounted for only 9% of the total log production and contributed only 2.4 million of the total 25 million cubic metres of wood. Half of the native logs were turned into woodchip and exported. This is a small industry with enormous deleterious results. Hardwood sourced from native forests is no longer necessary for the above uses., there are alternatives.

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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

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Some of the 91% of logs from plantations should be used as wood rather than woodchips, thereby making it unnecessary to log and chip native forests.

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## 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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Not logging native forests has many benefits for the economy, such as improving water quality of reservoirs and rivers, tourism, and saving the many millions of dollars representing the economic

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loss of the operation of the Forestry Commission. The people of NSW should not be paying millions of dollars to destroy the biodiversity of our own state and critical habitat of threatened species. Preserving native forests protects the ecology and biodiversity of our state.

**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 is estimated to release 3.6 million tonnes of carbon every year. Instead, if the practice of native forest logging was terminated, not only would these emissions cease, but also, as logged forests recover, the amount of carbon captured in the vegetation would increase. This is an obvious and easy way to decrease carbon emissions. Logged forests are more susceptible to fire than unlogged forests. Therefore, as climate change increases temperatures, there will be more fires in logged forests, causing even more emissions and increasing climate change further. The only way to stop this "runaway" climate change cascade is to stop logging native forests now.