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

No logging of old growth forests in NSW is sustainable. The operations by Forestry Corporation NSW amount to nothing but a mining operation of the most significant forests in the world. Incredibly rich forests with abundant biodiversity. Industrial logging of old growth forests harms the connectivity of these forests, impacting animals capacity to breed and reproduce. Species that once resided in logging coupes are no longer able to occupy those areas. The highly biodiverse areas of forest such as Bulga forest that is currently being logged are some of the last bastions for our endangered animals such as the greater glider, yellow bellied glider and Koala. It's time to stop logging our native forests in NSW. It is a losing industry absorbing tax payer dollars that could be much more intelligently invested. Studies have shown that four out of five Australians don't want our Native forests logged, yet this current labour government seems to turn a blind eye to it's commitment, creating a 'Greater Koala National Park' and at the same time logging it to pieces. Australia is the biggest land clearer of any developed nation in the world. It's time to end native forest logging once and for all in NSW.

The sustainability of current and future forestry operations in NSW relies upon intelligent management of plantation timbers. All current and future efforts should be placed into the management of plantation timbers. Not only has the yield from native forest logging dropped 40% since 2010, but estimations of the amount of harvestable timber by the Forestry Corporation are consistently over estimated. In 2023, native forests logging accounted for only 9% of the total log production in Australia (2.4 million of the total 25 million cubic metres). Logging of our native forests kills our endangered species, clogs our waterways, increases the risk of fire and decreases the health of our country by altering the conditions that create rainfall, cool our landscapes and clean the air.

"The NSW Government has been covering the losses of the native forest logging industry for nearly a decade. It is not a profitable industry; in the past two years alone, \$29 million of taxpayer money was spent subsidising the native forest logging division of Forestry Corporation NSW. Ending native forest logging and focusing on the profitable plantation sector would save taxpayers, our precious forests, and put Forestry Corporation on a path to sustainable operations." Jacqui Mumford, CEO of the Nature Conservation Council 2023.

Frontier Economics and ANU found that ending native forest logging would result in a \$60m net economic benefit to the state as well as a CO2 emissions saving of one million tonnes per annum - https://www.nature.org.au/as_nsw_s_debt_mounts_ncc_calls_for_an_end_to_subsidies_for_the_logging_industry

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

There are 150 threatened species in NSW that are directly impacted by the logging of native forests. Native forests in NSW hold significant cultural and spiritual value for First Nations people. First Nations people and communities have ongoing connection to native forests and forest landscapes are an integral part of cultural practice and knowledge. Mature and unlogged native

forests are critical for pollinators and play a key role in pollination across the landscape, both inside and outside of forests. Native forests provide recreation and improved health outcomes to locals and visitors alike and are a source of community pride and connection to place.

"NSW remains in the midst of an extinction crisis which will continue to gather pace until the root cause " widespread and unregulated destruction of our habitat encouraged by the former government " is addressed. The latest vegetation clearing data shows that clearing continues to devastate large swathes of habitat every year. In NSW, an equivalent of 300 times the Sydney CBD is cleared annually, or 570 football fields per day. Habitat clearing is, alongside climate change, the most significant threat to species in NSW[2], the worst ranked state in the country for protecting and restoring trees".

https://www.nature.org.au/urgent_interim_action_needed_as_nsw_clears_570_football_fields_of_habitat_each_day

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

Half of the logs taken by NSW Forestry Corporation in 2023 were used to make wood chip and then exported overseas. It is disgraceful. These big carbon storing trees reduced to wood chips for overseas markets.

In relation to timber products, hardwood logs taken from plantations made up 8.5 million cubic metres, and just 8% of these logs were saw and veneer logs. 87% of hardwood plantation logs were exported as wood chips

The market and demand for native forest timber is declining rapidly, the recent example of Essential Energy moving away from power poles harvested from native forests is just one example.

Hardwood sourced from native forests or plantations are no longer necessary for any of the uses identified above. Sawn and treated softwood logs and composite timber products made from softwoods can substitute for all current uses for native forest and plantation hardwoods.

Plantation timbers can provide for all of our domestic product needs. There is no need to continue to invest taxpayers dollars into a dieing industry.

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

Plantations already provide 91% of Australia's log production.

A higher proportion of harvested logs from plantations should be prioritised as saw and veneer logs, rather than exporting them as wood chips.

Subsidising the logging of public native forests by the Forestry Corporation is non-competitive and distorts the market away from the more profitable softwood plantation industry.

High-end and luxury native hardwood products should only be selectively harvested on private land 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

The NSW government is failing on the environment.

Native forests that are not logged have real and tangible benefits to the entire ecology and economy of NSW.

Native state forests cover an area of 2 million hectares in NSW and impact on a diverse set of living conditions for many towns, from water quality in reservoirs, to greater tourism industry opportunities, and carbon storage and abatement.

The native forest hardwood division of the Forestry Corporation operates at a loss that runs into tens of millions of dollars, at the expense of the NSW public. It also additionally receives tens of millions of dollars in regular equity injections.

The people of NSW should not be paying millions of dollars to destroy the biodiversity of our own state and critical habitat for threatened species.

Public native forests have a much higher economic value when they are allowed to function naturally and without logging.

First Nations Ranger Programs have been hugely successful at managing the recovery and health of native forests. Programs like the Githabul Rangers have shown how First Nations knowledge and management can restore the natural and critical function of forests in the landscape.

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

Native forest logging in NSW is estimated to release 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 in a native forest reduces the amount of stored carbon by more than half of the original value.

Ending native forest logging will allow previously logged forests to regain lost carbon and make a significant contribution to meeting our emissions targets.

Climate change is driving increased risks for forest health and continued logging in native forests is exacerbating that risk.

Forests that have not been logged are more resilient to the changing climate and catastrophic fires that are occurring as a consequence.