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

The logging of State hardwood native forest has intensified since the protections against the removal of mature trees were withdrawn by the previous government in 2018.

I am particularly concerned that the removal of mature trees takes away essential food sources for native wildlife and deprives 174 native species of tree hollows in which to live and/or nest. It is well recognized that native forest logging adversely affects the water quality of our streams and rivers on which all our communities rely.

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

Both non-First Nations and First Nations believe that unlogged native forests are critical to the maintenance of our culture and identity. We are now fully aware that mature forests generate rainfall, clean the air we breathe and cool the landscape. This is particularly important in our management of climate change.

Native forests provide critical pollination services to all plant life within and outside forest communities. Unfortunately around a hundred and a half threatened species have been negatively impacted by State sponsored native logging.

The relationship between First Nations peoples and their cultural heritage is compromised by native forest logging.

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

Forestry NSW claims that the hardwood logging of native forests is necessary to support the home building industry. The reality is that over 85% of logs are chipped for export at a loss to the Australian community. Australian taxpayers subsidize this wasteful industry.

The Australian building industry prefers sawn and treated timbers produced by plantation forests for which there is an ample supply.

The market for hardwood timber is in rapid decline.

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

Softwood plantations are currently supplying over 90% of Australian building needs. Any high quality hardwood production on privately owned land should be selectively harvested for high quality veneers or sawn timber needs

Subsidizing the felling of native State owned forests for wood chips must cease. This practice just does not pass the 'pub test.'

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

I am aware that the native hardwood section of the Forestry Corporation operates at a loss amounting to tens of millions of dollars. The people of NSW are paying this money in order to destroy their environment. Luckily for the Government most people in the State of NSW are not aware that this is the case.

I believe that our native forests when left in tact provide real benefits to the entire ecology and to the economy of NSW. They contribute to the live ability of many nearby towns and encourage people to live nearby to establish businesses of all kinds especially in tourism. Many towns adjacent to natural native forest areas are highly sought after and are considered as highly desirable places in which to bring up children.

The State government obviously does not see it this way because millions of taxpayer dollars are being spent to destroy the biodiversity that many Australians consider worth protecting. As well as recognizing native forests for their capacity to capture carbon which is essential for human survival, the forests can provide opportunities for First Nations people to manage the forests for future generations and to create opportunities to share their cultural heritage with non- First Nations. Business opportunities abound.

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

The best way to help mitigate against the impending climate change disaster is to keep our native forests intact to prevent the stored carbon from being released into the atmosphere which will happen if the forest is logged. At the current logging rate over 3.5 million tonnes of carbon will be released per annum.

Our environment will benefit from the termination of native logging by preventing the release of carbon equivalent to the removal of 840,000 cars from the roads each year.

Previously logged forests will have a chance to regrow and store carbon to help meet future emission targets.