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

The hard wood sector of the forestry industry is economically and environmentally unsustainable. There are many reports that demonstrate the economic losses the NSW hardwood sector face especially since the bushfires of 2019/20. Coffs Harbour was spared largely from these fires and an increase in logging activity has seemingly commenced regardless of the ecological impacts to biodiversity, water catchment health and future catastrophic bushfires. Hardwood plantations also play a vital role as recovering forest ecosystems and should be managed to drawdown carbon, increase biodiversity and water quality values instead of burnt for electricity at the old Broadwater mill. Native forest management in NSW is broken and seems to be driving species to extinction, increasing desertification, reducing water drinking quality especially in Clarence electorate, making bushfires worse and driving climate change. Further, it's taxpayer subsidises and therefore financially unsustainable.

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

Significant cultural values exist across the terrestrial landscape that are best detailed by first nations people. Where I live, the Gumbaynggirr people have strong connections to place particularly through story's and place making frameworks. It's institutionally appalling that government disregard First Nations people's claims to cultural heritage values without court injunctions as was seen at Newry SF.

Environmental values have been raised above and again it's appalling that NSW native forests are subject to industrial scale logging that destroys ecological values. This can be seen with Bell Miner Associated Dieback. Weed infestations such as lantana benefit from the ecological disturbance which favours BMAD and is a major impediment to animal migration such as koalas and wallaby's.

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

Native forest hardwood should have no place in the construction industry. Soft wood and alternative composite materials should replace any need to use hardwood products as building materials. Further, demand management practices should be improved to minimise the wastage of timber products. Sustainability values - reduce, reuse, recycle and redesign - should be a cultural standard for the timber products as they relate to housing, construction, mining, transport and retail. There seems like too much waste and disregard for sustainability values in this sector!

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

Softwood plantations seem like the better wood source in terms of economics and as an ecological resource. Understandably, a best practice standard is a timber product that is nature positive and softwood plantations seem to better cover this better than hardwood plantations.

Softwood plantations could be incorporated into farm forestry practices especially on already cleared farm land. The problem with hardwood plantations and PNF is they negatively impact NSW fragile ecology. Hardwood plantations are recovering forest ecosystems and play a vital role in the web of life, which human society requires to sustain its future. Meeting timber supply needs would better be spent on demand management and sustainability values mentioned above!

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

Without an understanding of eco-awareness, recreational outcomes in State Forests have largely become a place of ecological disregard. This occurs with excessive 4x4 use, trail bikes, illegal dumping, and unsanitary human defecation. The fragile SF creeks behind Coffs Harbour are a good example of misuse especially on hot days in summer. The unregulated manner of SFs leaves little to be desired without a personal ethic to guide behaviour. I have little experience with FN land management but see Indigenous Protected Areas a model that can empower FN people and allow for greater oversight of sensitive environments. I would also recommend courses in Bushcraft or treading lightly programs for more and more people as nature based tourism increases visitation to sensitive environments.

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

It appears that monetizing carbon and biodiversity via offsets is a disaster in wait. NSW energy and planning sectors cannot decouple their pollution and biodiversity impacts from a growing economy. It seems, we need a prosperous economy without growth!!!