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

I work in timber milling. In north eastern NSW native forests are harvested for the production of high end solid timber products. Once the high end products have been recovered from the log lesser value products are recovered and all products are utilized down to the sawdust for agriculture. The resource is used so that there is no waste at the mill. The mill runs this way because the industry see the value in the logs now, and into the future.

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

The biggest threats to forests and all the values they offer is fire. Active management of forests for timber production increases the protection of the forest from fire. The tracks used and gaps created for logging are then used for fire fighting and fire breaks. Machinery and the skilled operators are usually involved in fire control. Loss of the industry will result in loss of people and assets for forest protection

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

The demand for high end hardwood will always be high. These products cant be replaced with pine due to the differences in the timber properties.

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

Half of the timber I work with comes from the public forest and the remainder from private forests. There will not be enough from private forests to make up the shortfall. Plantation timbers in the north east of NSW are not old enough to produce the timber that is like for like from native forests.

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

Forests that have been harvested are not void of other values. Forest harvesting is already part of a diverse management regime, as per state legislation.

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

Carbon is stored in the timber products milled from the trees. Carbon is then sequestered in the regrown trees in the forest. This is recognized in the federal governments carbon modelling.