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

The NSW government subsidy of the native forest hardwood division within Forestry Commission is a major cost to the public which can not justified. Major changes to NSW forestry management should be made to achieve a sustainable operation as soon as possible. These changes should recognise the demand for native hardwood is diminishing as plantation hardwood and pine becomes available.

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

Wildlife species in NSW forests are considerably impacted by logging. This includes not only arboreal mammals which may be directly dependent on tree hollows, but birds, pollinating insects, and a range of terrestrial species which thrive in the microclimates of healthy forests. Forestry Commission compliance with regulations to identify threatened before logging has been found inadequate. The biodiversity impact of logging should be evaluated on a broader ecosystem scale as well as being monitored against listed NSW threatened species.

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 forests that continue to grow naturally are storing carbon and contribute to carbon abatement. Continued logging releases carbon, particularly with the high percentage of logs being woodchipped or pulped for single use. Given state and federal commitments to reduce carbon emissions there is no justification for this logging which has been estimated to release 3.6 million tonnes of carbon p.a. Termination of this logging would allow previously logged forests to regenerate.