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

Current forestry operations are not sustainable. The log sizes are a fraction of what they used to be which indicates the trees are being cut down over shorter and shorter time (and growth) spans. The operations are subsidised by tax payers, so they are not economically sustainable. It is outrageous the government pays for timber companies to make a profit when they are clearly not sustainable. That much of the logged trees are then woodchipped and sent overseas is a disgrace. Our natural environment is worth more as habitat and carbon sinks.

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

Forests are essential for habitat, wildlife (including threatened species) and to reduce the impacts of climate change by absorbing more carbon. They provide green spaces for human who are increasingly urbanised and living in small apartments. When a forest was logged nearby, we had a lyre bird visit, looking for a new home. So not only are wildlife killed or injured by forestry operations, they are displaced, forcing them into unusual habitat or into other areas with competition from other animals, putting more pressure on both wildlife and habitat.

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

Demand for timber products should come from plantations on private land set aside for the purpose of providing timber and owned by the timber companies who benefit. It is outrageous that native public forests are logged - at tax payers expense - for private companies to make a profit.

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

Private native Forestry should source their raw material from private plantations.

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

State forests should be used for habitat, to protect soils and water catchments, to absorb carbon, provide recreational opportunities (rather than degrading national parks). Any State forest with significant habitat for endangered species should be protected in national parks.

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

Obviously forests are needed for the above. However, they should not be used for carbon offsets - we should be reduced carbon emissions, not just transferring them between companies.