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

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Native forest logging is not sustainable and has not been for many years, so it needs to STOP. Our native forests are habitat for many protected species and need to be protected and preserved.

Australia is well known world-wide for our unique native species including those heading for extinction.

The remnant native forests still standing are critical to stop the progression to extinction. Since European settlement, native forests have changed drastically with logging removing many species once in abundance, for example red cedars, and now rare. The impact on the complex biodiversity of these losses is not understood. Regrowth after logging changes the forests with a loss of diversity and the habitat of animals and birds with further impact of siltation and erosion of streams and rivers.

The other reason native forest logging is not sustainable is that it continues to operate at a loss requiring millions of dollars of taxpayer money to turn high value eco-systems into low quality end products of woodchips and paper pulp. Native Forests have greater social and environmental value than this.

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

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Australia's natural environment and rich biodiversity does not belong to the entity of Forest Corporation but to all Australians and indeed the global population. It should not be destroyed for short-term gains for one entity when other options, such as timber sourced from plantation forests are available. These forests are essential for the survival of the many threatened and endangered species that have found refuge in them, for example koala, greater glider, yellow bellied glider, squirrel gliders brush-tailed phascogale and many more.

Intact native forests are carbon positive, clean water catchments and important places of recreation and psychological renewal.

Native Forests are important for the cultural identity of Indigenous Australians.

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

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Timber products are already primarily sourced from plantation timbers whilst native forests are mostly used for woodchips and paper pulp. The future of timber products across all spectrums of demand are in plantations.

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

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Plantation forests can produce timber at much faster rates than native forests, are able to provide employment and social and economic benefits for local communities and generate far less greenhouse gas emissions than native forest logging.

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Native forests remnants are now critical for ecological sustainability and the rapid decline of native species, something this current government has stated that it is committed to (note the election promises of preserving the natural environment and halting species extinction in the Great National Koala Park much of which is currently under threat of logging at an almost unprecedented rate.

Plantation forests should be encouraged on both private lands previously degraded for stock and public owned lands. This would in turn increase sustainable land and water management and reduce the impacts of hard hoofed animals and use of chemicals.

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**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**

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Our society values the natural world and the biodiversity it homes. Millions of dollars were donated following the devastation of the Black Summer fires. Nature based tourism is generates income in the billions of dollars. Instead of wasting taxpayer dollars to support logging of Native Forests, Forestry Corporation should focus upon sustainable plantation timbers.

Native forests need to be protected not only for threatened and endangered species, but also recreational use, nature-based tourism businesses and cultural heritage education. Similar to the end of whaling, nature positive tourism industries promise more economic gain and employment than nature destructive industries.

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**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**

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The time is NOW to stop the destruction of our natural environment, including and especially our Native Forests that are home to so many animals and birds. By ending native forest logging and fully transitioning to plantation timbers Australia and NSW will be more able to reach our emission reduction targets. Healthy intact native forests are our best bet for the preservation of native species in the light of climate induced challenges now and into the not so distant future. Dense and complex native forests, cool the atmosphere, retain moisture, decrease the impact of flooding and siltation and provide important psychological benefits to human populations.