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

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Not sustainable. Too few of these areas left due to human encroachment and fire. There is no offsets for the current biodiversity. Unlike plantations too much destruction of plant and animal habitat that isn't the target timbers. Like using a sledgehammer to crack a walnut. Not financially sustainable or profitable with the target timbers already being overtaken by cheaper, high volume synthetic product. Selected timbers for high end one off pieces do not require commercial logging but rather individual commissioned contractors. It is like pulping a \$100,000 Stradivarius to make and sell \$100 toilet paper. It makes no economic sense to operate at a permanent economic and ecological loss. It is a waste of capital investment and human labour that would be more profitably employed elsewhere. So so NOT sustainable.

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

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Believe it or not humans are apex mammals dependent on the food chain and require places that are hotbeds of biodiversity for our own survival. For our own future generations. You might not eat that rare bug but the bug that does it it might be the bug that pollinates your food or the plant that is essential to the soil that grows the fodder that feeds the animal that is now the steak on your plate. You would be surprised at how many water critters that clean the water in the upper catchments from where we get our drinking water, are dependent on forests. The more nutrients in the soil and the cleaner the drinking water, the longer the life you live. Forests are essential for soil nutrients not just within the forest but also downstream. Forests are rain catchers through evapo transpiration so if you want water to grow your food we need to keep them. If you want nutrient dense food, healthier immune systems, lower health care costs, flood mitigation and better water quality then we better keep our forests. These basic truths I learnt as a primary school kid living in regional and remote areas. It absolutely astounds me that our decision makers are so ignorant of facts pertaining to basic human survival that are self evident to every country kid in Australia. Staying alive in our fragile and harsh country has been a cultural value in my family since our first ancestor arrived in Australia in 1791. We are 9 generations strong in this country and didn't get there by being stupid about Australia's natural assets and dangers. The people getting your advice from about logging our forests know jack about the country they want to make money off. Probably never stepped foot in that forest. Why should they? The generational wealth of Australians is not their primary concern or motivation. But it should be for those entrusted to be our NSW State Representatives. I beg you to consult more widely and with people who have far more knowledge of our forests before rushing in for the fools gold being offered by shonky salesmen pressuring you into giving them taxpayer money for ventures that only profit them not the people who voted you in. Numbers on a screen \$\$ are replaceable. Not so replaceable is a 300 year old tree habitat for the rare and endangered greater glider. Are you seriously willing to swap your children's real inheritance for a numbers game?

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

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Demand for timber products has been increasingly supplied by plantations and in the building industry by even faster growing synthetic products which are termite resistant and stronger than timber yet to the same job. Then there are the composite materials like hempcrete and bamboo composites which retain much of the characteristics of natural products such as breathability or expansion but are also fire resistant. A lot of the demand within housing, construction and mining is being filled by imports of these composite products from USA and Europe as Australia has been slow on the uptake with the approval of hemp cropping, the facilities for the processing of bamboo and plastics. We have preferred to give away our land and water for China to profit from growing and exporting cotton instead of looking at the feasibility studies of doing it ourselves. Is it cultural cringe that we would rather collect a peppercon rent from a foreign power than be self sufficient in generating our own wealth from our own lands? Using our workers to make people in other countries rich. The state raves on about jobs in mining but when you look at the money all we get is a couple of thousand tradies giving the fed government a bit of income tax and GST while billions in resources leave our shores every day putting billions into some foreign tax dodger's pockets leaving behind a billion dollar mess for the Australian taxpayer to clean up. The demand is there but we are not filling that demand through the logging of native forrests. You only have to go down to your local Bunnings to work that out. Approve hemp. Build state owned bamboo processing plants. Incentivise farmers to switch to fast growing hemp and bamboo. Legislate the reservation of gas lime and other locally mined minerals so we have the raw ingredients set up a state owed plastics plant as a profitable public utility that can manufacture the composites that are currently in demand in the building, construction and mining industries. Employ a few decent researchers that can give you the trends of supply and demand of product overseas and do your job instead of signing our state away because the shonky salesman who is pressuring you to let the log our forests supported your election campaign and shouted you a couple of boozy dinners so you feel like you owe him. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I would rather the decisions that affect EVERYONE in NSW be based on evidence based research rather than on whether you like someone's proposal based on them shouting you a beer. Even these questions as they are worded - fishing for free information from the public rather than using the brains God gave you.

### **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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In my opinion both are necessary but limited in being able to meet supply. As I have mention in response to earlier questions, private enterprise is way ahead of you and importing hardwood, sunthetics and composites to meet demand. The softwood given that we started bplannting about 50 years ago and have been able to do a rotating harvest and plant for the last 30 years or so especially in Qld means that our ability to meet demand is in much better shape. There are more challenges associated with hardwoods. A longer lead time. Natives such as koalas taking up residence, less land available etc in my obsevation. Private forestry doesnt have a future except small private operators selecting specific timbers for one off contracts eg bespoke furniture, However even with this, the habitat of our endangered species must take priority as they are more important to our future generations than some rich bloke getting a bespoke solid hardwood boardroom table. I suggest you consult with a qualified and recognised forestry expert for a more definitive answer to this question.

**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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Compliance checks. Physical on the ground compliance officers. Make sure those that you do give licences to log are operating within their remit. Traditional landholders / rangers working together with ecologists to monitor the health of the forest, and active land management weed control, cool burn, gridding, counts, waterway management. Those managing the forest should also be on the panel when it comes to deciding who is fit to exploit those resources and who is not. Forget consultation with TOs - equal stake holders and decision makers. Trust me they are mostly practical and pragmatic when it comes to land probably better than most of your department. They are not Greenies despite often being forced into alliances with them. I have spent decades living with and working with Aboriginal people in remote areas NSW and NT and still retain many of those friendships after my retirement. So when I speak about Aboriginal people it is from the observations and viewpoint of a white 7th gen colonial living with and amongst them. It is not from the perspective of speaking for them as they are perfectly capable of speaking for themselves. They just want you to listen. So I suggest you listen to the Aboriginal people of the country you intend to allow to be logged. I suggest you respect their traditional ways of doing meetings and meet with their boss man or boss lady on their ground with their whole family present. Rather than treating their TO elder like a servant or beggar and demanding they come cap in hand to a meeting place and time where you hold the power. In my experience if you accord them the respect of doing it their way in their time rather than demanding they jump to your tune, you will get a lot more done in a shorter time and are likely to have a much more productive outcome. Just a suggestion. I am not your boss, I am just giving you my best advice based on my 40 years of experience negotiating with Aboriginal people.

**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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I would check out the Ranger program CDU papers on this. Particularly I would seek out Doctoral Candidate [REDACTED] through CDU. I would also seek out [REDACTED] expert on climate change currently contracted to Environment Centre NT. The doctoral research done at CDU on this has been extensive. I don't see the point in advising on this when there are so many people with more specialised knowledge on this subject.