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

I see no long term future in the continued logging of native forests. Even selective felling (as opposed to clear felling) has been abused in the past and continues the destruction of biodiversity and ecosystems in a way that no one can pretend is reasonable and sustainable. At this point in our history this is incontestable.

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

The environmental value of forests is by far and away its most significant contribution to Australian culture and identity. It does not matter that many in the Australian community would have limited direct engagement with native forests. The fact that the forests are there and that native plant and animal species are not being indiscriminantly destroyed affects the entire collective good.

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

Why can't these needs for timber products be met through Australian plantation timber?

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

Native forests on private land should receive state protection. Money should be paid to farmers whose farming is impeded by the higher commitment to ensure native forest corridors and the maintenance of substantive native forest stands. Any clearing of native forests on private land should only be allowed after proper and timely environmental assessment and land owners should face substantial fines and imprisonment for environmental degradation when proper processes are ignored. Softwood and Hardwood plantations should be encouraged, as long as the land being used is fit for purpose and does not of itself cause native forest clearing or loss of important farmland.

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 not be seen as an economic resource, but as an important adjunct to the states network of National Parks. Their maintenance through aboriginal forest management models for the prevention of catastrophic bushfires and the control of feral pests would be most welcome.

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

Clearly, native forests are an important part of the communities response to climate change. The maintenance of biodiversity, the sinkhole for carbon that native forests represent, the support or native flora and fauna in the fight to maintain habitat against the background of both intentional and climate induced destruction should all take prominent position in the decision making processes to maintain our national estate. As a grandfather I find it incredible that the fate of the Koala, the greater glider and many other iconic Australian animals seems to depend on the near indifference of the forestry industry. How do I explain this to my granddaughters, how can this be justified? The only way current forestry practices can be maintained is by denuding greater and greater tracks of land while at the same time not contributing to any state or national wealth, but by depending on subsidies? Their destruction of native forest impoverishes us and must be brought to an end.