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

- Native forest logging is unsustainable, commercially, financially and environmentally. Financially unsustainable-Analysis by conservative Think Tank the Blueprint Institute found ending native forest logging in 2023,24 and funding transition packages for workers would have delivered taxpayers a net profit of \$45 million. Environmentally unsustainable- because of constant aggressive logging of our native forests that wastes our trees as only 8% of native forests logged become sawn timber. The other 92% currently is pulped and turned into cardboard and woodchips, with a large supply sent to overseas markets. This is a disgrace. Native forest logging cannot be sustained commercially at the rate NSW Forestry Corp wants to destroy it, without dire environmental consequences like increased natural disasters (flood, bushfire) due to increased climate change impacts caused by felling and losing our natural carbon capturers-our forest trees.
- Estimations by the Forestry Corporation of the amount of harvestable timber are consistently over estimated.
- The yield from public native forests has declined by 40% since 2010.
- Protections for mature trees were removed in 2018 and logging was intensified to try and get more wood from native forests. These removed protections has meant an increase in threatened species. This action was wrong in 2018, and native wildlife are paying the heavy cost in not surviving this onslaught.
- Logging of native forests reduces biomass and carbon storage, and removing mature trees takes away valuable food sources and hollow bearing trees that are specific habitat requirements for wildlife like the endangered Greater Glider.
- 174 species in NSW rely on hollows for dens and nests, and logging trees with hollows reduces the number of hollows that are available in native forests with some animals literally missing out on finding a hollow that protects them from predators such as feral cats and foxes. So, although they are not killed directly through logging the consequences of logging do affect their ability to survive. Losing their den trees has seen population collapses.
- Native forest logging has increased fire threat and intensity, erosion and water way pollution, and the penetration of weeds and other invasive species that can squeeze out native flora and diminish the environmental value of the ecosystem, making it more difficult for the wildlife to survive on the ground, in water streams and in the trees.
- Native forest logging reduces the function and health of waterways, including streams and rivers and pollutes them. It has been noted that extensive logging has reduced water quality in streams where our platypus resides causing declining populations. These are elusive animals, and it is extremely difficult to count how many actually survived after the 2019/2020 bushfires due to aftermath pollution of their streams.

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

- Healthy and unlogged forests are critical to the whole environment and both First Nations and non-First Nations culture and identity. All Australians need for their own well- being a

connection to Australian nature. We have a right to protect what belongs to the people- the forest estate of NSW. It does not belong to any industry to pillage and plunder.

- Forests, particularly healthy mature forests, generate rainfall, cool the landscape and clean the air which can positively affect communities where people suffer from respiratory diseases such as asthma. The health benefits from a healthy natural environment are ongoing.
- 150 threatened species in NSW are directly impacted by logging native forests. Continued logging of these forests has seen an increase of 3% in threatened species over the last 3 years according to the NSW EPA website.
- Mature and unlogged native forests are critical for pollinators (bees and bats) and play a key role in pollination across the landscape, both inside and outside of forests. Logging intensely our native forests affect the balance of bees and bats and their ability to pollinate and disperse seeds.
- Native forests provide recreation and improved health outcomes to locals and visitors alike and are a source of community pride and connection to a place. It is well documented as to the positive health benefits- physically, mentally and emotionally in being present in a pristine native forest or national park. We need these healthy natural spaces to escape to for our own well-being. Native wildlife needs a healthy ecosystem for their own survival.
- Native forests in NSW hold significant cultural and spiritual value for First Nations people- it connects them to Country. When Country is ill or sick this affects them culturally and spiritually. We need to respect our native forests, and this shows respect for First Nations Peoples. They have spiritual totems represented by native wildlife. They are connected to these totems and when they struggle or are killed through logging this affects Aboriginal People spiritually.
- First Nations people and communities have ongoing connection to native forests, and forest landscapes are an integral part of cultural practice and knowledge. Decimating their forests is disrespectful as they never ceded land- always has been and always will belong to Aboriginal People.
- There are 269 nationally listed threatened species in NSW. The significance of retaining healthy native forests in NSW means survival of threatened species. Continued native forest logging compromises many ecosystems and habitats throughout NSW and will lead to a continued downward decline of our animals.
- The Great Koala National Park was developed by leading scientists, ecologists and environmental groups to ensure the survival of koalas in the wild. Forestry Corporation has responded by trying to extract as much timber before these precious koala forests are protected. Deliberately increasing logging to extract as much timber within the boundaries of the proposed Great Koala National Park is morally wrong and utterly selfish and is contributing to further rapid decline of our native wildlife.

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

- Logging in native forests accounted for only 9% of the total log production in Australia in the year 2023. Native forest logging contributes only 2.4 million of the total 25 million cubic metres for that year. It is a declining industry now and must end.
- Half of the logs taken from native forests in 2023 were turned into woodchip and exported which is disrespectful again to Aboriginal People. This also sends a message to communities who care about our wildlife, that species survival according to the state government is only worth chipped wood pieces. The logging industry cares nothing for our environmental values, to them it is worthless. The community do care and will continue to strongly advocate for our wildlife.

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- Hardwood logs taken from plantations made up 8.5 million cubic metres, and just 8% of these logs were saw and veneer logs. 87% of hardwood plantation logs were exported as wood chips. Therefore, we do not need to decimate our native forests, and destroy habitats for woodchip, as plantation forests can supply all the woodchip if required.
 - Hardwood sourced from native forests or plantations are no longer necessary for any of the uses identified in this section- housing, mining, transport or retail. If needed though there is enough plantation logging to satisfy these markets.
 - Sawn and treated softwood logs and composite timber products made from softwoods can substitute for all current uses for native forest and plantation hardwoods.
 - The market and demand for native forests is declining rapidly, the recent example of Essential Energy moving away from power poles harvested from native forests is just one example.

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

- Plantations already provide 91% of Australia's log production and can be expanded to easily replace native forest trees.
- A higher proportion of harvested logs from plantations should be prioritised as saw and veneer logs, rather than exporting them as wood chips anyway.
- Subsidising the logging of public native forests by the Forestry Corporation is non-competitive and distorts the market away from the more profitable softwood plantation industry which requires no subsidy. Throwing taxpayer money to support native forest logging that destroys native wildlife habitat is wrong, and the general community are strongly opposed to this practice
- High-end and luxury native hardwood products should only be selectively harvested on private land and under strict conditions.

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

- Native forests that are not logged have real and tangible benefits to the entire ecology and economy of NSW and contribute more if left standing, by providing wildlife habitat, wildlife feed, functioning as a carbon capturer, keeping the air clean, keeping the forest floor damp so it doesn't dry out, waterways clean and supporting insects and small vertebrates. These are only some of the ongoing benefits in ending native forest logging.
- Native state forests cover an area of 2 million hectares in NSW and impact on a diverse set of living conditions for many towns, from water quality in reservoirs, to greater tourism industry opportunities, and carbon storage and abatement.
- The native forest hardwood division of the Forestry Corporation operates at a loss that runs into tens of millions of dollars, at the expense of the NSW public. \$29 million was spent subsidising Forestry Corporation over the past 2 years, including \$5 million to log forest meant to be protected as the Great Koala National Park-using our taxpayer money! It also additionally receives tens of millions of dollars in regular equity injections.
- The people of NSW should not be paying millions of dollars to destroy the biodiversity of our own state and destroy critical habitat for threatened species. I am strongly opposed to this action.
- Public native forests have a much higher economic value when they are allowed to function naturally and without logging- through climate capture, improved water and air quality and opportunities to expand tourism and showcase the native forests in NSW to the world.

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- First Nations Ranger Programs have been hugely successful at managing the recovery and health of native forests. Programs like the Githabul Rangers have shown how First Nations knowledge and management can restore the natural and critical function of forests in the landscape. Seeking Aboriginal People's knowledge will also show respect and help to heal relationships with them by recognising the importance and value in healing Country.

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 forest logging in NSW is estimated to release 3.6 million tonnes of carbon every year. This does not align with the federal government's Climate Bill and goals for net zero.
- Ending native forest logging would be the equivalent to removing 840 thousand cars from the roads per year. This does align with the Climate Bill.
- Logging in a native forest reduces the amount of stored carbon by more than half of the original value so that we are exacerbating climate change and its negative impacts (natural disasters, poor health) on nature and ourselves.
- Ending native forest logging will allow previously logged forests to regain lost carbon and make a significant contribution to meeting our emissions targets and this should be everyone's goal and also the NSW government's goal.
- Climate change is driving increased risks for forest health and continued logging in native forests is making that risk worse and contributing to more natural disasters that affects everyone and all our wildlife.
- Forests that have not been logged are more resilient to the changing climate and catastrophic fires that are occurring as a consequence. The NSW government has a responsibility to make the right decisions to protect our forests that in turn will protect people into the future by reducing the risks of natural disasters, minimising poor air and water quality that affects people's health and well-being. If nature is healthy, we are healthy! Conversely no nature means no future! It starts now with the government making the right decision to end native forest logging completely in NSW.

Over 11,000 hectares of Greater Glider refugia is currently being logged or is scheduled for logging in the near future. Four key examples of this targeting are Tallaganda, Badja, Styx River and Tuggolo State Forests. Community surveys over the last 12 months have found a total of 571 Greater Gliders and 154 den trees using on-ground spotlighting and thermal drone surveys. These surveys are ongoing and indicate that there are high densities of Greater Gliders within these areas. Logging must not continue, as many of these Greater Gliders will be killed.

Under the NSW EPA if any den trees with Greater Gliders are identified, all surrounding areas must be protected completely from logging activities. It would be illegal to log these areas that contain endangered Greater Gliders.

Another issue that is a cause of real concern is the need to suspend logging immediately in the Great Koala National Park and start the transition of those workers left in this industry.

There is an alliance of supporters within the NSW Parliament from all sides of politics standing with communities calling for a suspension of logging operations in the proposed Great Koala National Park. This growing alliance is listening to the calls of the community and is ready to support the government to take bolder and quicker action to protect the forests in the Great Koala National Park.

The Government has said that they will not stop logging the forest and koala habitat while the National Park is being established. This is an untenable position and goes against the

government's pre-election promise to save koalas. This is a betrayal to the NSW electorate who voted for this government.

We cannot continue to plunder these forests, diminishing all of their important values and pushing koalas closer to extinction whilst we are planning to make this area a Great Koala National Park. It is environmentally reckless and a wanton waste of public money. Our koalas will inherit a destroyed area as a result of logging by NSW Forestry Corp. This action is morally and ethically wrong and will not protect our koalas. It is hypocritical of the government to be supporting NSW Forestry Corp to log and destroy an area that was clearly identified with healthy koala populations, and home to 20% of NSW koalas, whilst proclaiming they are committed to save them.

Huge areas in the GKNP have already been identified for logging for now and into 2025.

Comparing what has already been logged since 2023 the areas slated for logging is massive. NSW Forestry Corp have plans to aggressively log within the proposed boundaries of the Great Koala National Park before it is created.

Forestry Corporation are also seeking to redefine the borders of the park, reducing its size and excluding critical koala habitat by falsely calling them 'plantation forests'. This risks the park as ecologically unviable. Allowing taxpayer's money to be spent on the destruction of the GKNP and ultimate extinction of NSW's koalas will be an ongoing contentious issue.

The community will not go away, and we will not stop advocating for its protection. Victoria and Western Australia ended native forest logging last year. NSW is the only state government without a plan to phase out native forest logging. The time is now.