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

All forestry operations need to be sustainable environmentally and economically managed..Forest Corporation NSW operate sustainable harvesting operations , governed by the Regional Forest Agreement between Federal and State Govts, Integrated Forest Operation Agreements for protecting sensitive areas ,harvesting and rehabilitation/regeneration ;and the Environmental Protection Authority for monitoring and regulation. It is regarded worldwide as one of the most regulated industries in the World. Currently approx 12 % of total forest area is only availalbe for harvesting and less than 1% is actually harvested and regenerated each year. We import approx \$5 billion of timber due to product demand and we need to look at ways to build our own future resources , both plantation and native hardwood forests to cater for a growing population with increased demand. Regional Forest agreements should be strenghtened and extended in time to give certainty to the communities relying on forestry ,and to ensure there is no further reductioun in availalbe forest areas by states without federal consent under the agreement.

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

Current agreements and legislation as stated in 1. above protects endangered flora and fauna . Harvesting operations must avoid and protect habitat for example for black cockatoos, koalas , swiftt parrots etc . State forests have extensive road systems and forest management that allows public access , keeps areas clean from invasive species and assists in fire protection. These systems should be further resourced and extended to National parks so that they become less of a fire hazard, are more accessible and NOT the source of many megafires as experienced in 2019 and 2020. I have had personal experience in my family where we suffereed complete loss of our farming infrasture including residence, due to a megafire out of control in November 2019 that started in an unmanaged National Park , which could have been prevented. Locking these areas up is not a form of management . Nor can it be stated to be a natural forest when invasive species such as lantana are allowed to overrun the areas and there is a forest floor build up of combustibile material. Working closely with Indigenous communities is very important to use their knowledge in fire management. Cultural buring is simliar to hazard reduction burning, as practised in the past and by some at present, but needs to be more extensive. If you understand the Australian native bush as my family for generations does, you would know that the Australian native bush is designed to burn for regeneration. The current policy of lock up and leave does not assist this process.

There are several reports published now that indicate d that koalas for example are not an endangered speceis,including a CSIRO report indicating koalas on the north coast have increased in population at least 10 times in the last 12 years; and the the DPI report led by Professor Brad Laws indicates that Forest harvesting does not inhibit koala populations. Those who wish to close forests for native hardwood timber harvesting ignore these and promote misinformation to further their cause,rather than cooperatively looking at using solid scientific data to support their views. Forests can be maintained,managed and used by all for the benefit of communities ,

economically, socially and environmentally. By closing them entirely as is the case in other states such as Vic and WA, we are losing professional and experienced people in forest management, the economy suffers through lack of supply, communities suffer and lose their social structures, and we are being irresponsible in the sovereign management of our estate, by not providing for our own future, and relying on overseas imports that is not sustainable and in many cases not responsibly resourced. To close our own well managed forests and import from unmanaged overseas areas destroying other habitat and species is not a solution. Given that approximately 88% of the forest estate is already preserved, we have a responsibility to properly manage that estate to ensure its future. By simply closing a forest and not providing this management is irresponsible and creates further danger for our threatened species in future wildfires etc.

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

The native hardwood industry is essential to the maintenance and provision of resources to the Australian and NSW economy. During Covid the industry and sawmills were designated as essential industries and allowed to continue.

As mentioned above, we already import approx \$ 5 billion of timber into NSW, while producing \$2.9 Billion and adding a further \$1million in value add (refer to Ernst and Young hardwood industry Report on the NSW hardwood timber industry). We should be looking at ways to preserve, maintain and expand our forest industries to meet this demand. The mining industry in NSW is heavily dependant on timber for underground long walls, railway timber products is a multimillion dollar industry requiring products such as sleepers, bridge decking, supports for both new and maintenance. The timber pallet industry is massive in its need to properly transport goods for industrial and retail. Timber as a resource is readily available from properly managed resourced areas for all these needs. It is renewable, sustainable and assists in carbon capture, sequestration and management. Alternative products using steel concrete or plastic are all adding to the carbon footprint, We are not destroying forests to provide product as is often displayed in the public in the misinformation cycle.

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

As mentioned above, we are already in a large deficit in provision of timber resources to meet a growing demand, both from the public and private forest estates. There is a need for policy to grow both native hardwood and softwood and provision needs to be made for that. However it is a fallacy to say we need to replace all native hardwood with hardwood plantations. At present NSW Forest Corporation manages approx 2 million hectares of native hardwood forests and 55,000 hectares of plantations. This is supplemented by timber from private property lands. Over the last 25 years the public forest estate available for native timber harvesting has been reduced by approx 50%, yet the demand has been continually growing with increased population and associated needs coming with that through housing and infrastructure. Not all native timbers used are conducive to production in a plantation. Plantations are monoculture environments, compared to the diverse ecology of natural forests which climate is needed for some timber species to thrive. At present most hardwood plantations are blackbutt, spotted gum and blue and grey gum. Other desired species such as tallwood, ironbark, box, beech, mahogany, terpine to name a few thrive in the natural forest environment. There is no reason in my opinion to reduce the native hardwood forest area but it should be maintained, managed and expanded as well as plantations to meet future needs. Private property plantations and natural forests are certainly needed to supplement this resource, and there should be further funding and incentives to do so. Given it is a 30 to 50 year cycle to grow trees to a maturity level for harvesting, a long term view

is needed in forestry policy management. I understand that NSW Forest Corp works on 100 and 50 year cycles to ensure regeneration and sustainability.

It is a combination of the above that will assist in meeting our future needs.

There is also a case for future proper management of the national park estate to ensure its survival. This may involve fire management practices, tree thinning and harvesting in a responsible manner, that enhances and improves these forests for its native inhabitants, to be also environmentally responsible and provide a passive resource for humans..

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 as compared to National Parks are integral in providing a resource base for scientific study and management of the forest estate. There are many highly qualified personnel employed in forest management, and many career opportunities available. The practices currently used in NSW forest management that are recognised world wide need to be recognised by our Govt, and further resourced to be applied more in National park management.

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

It is well recognised that timber and forestry is a natural storer and sequester of carbon. You need to grow and expand forests to continue to capture carbon. It is a renewable resource and will continue this process. Old growth forests while recognised as valuable and need preservation, do not promote further carbon sequestration, hence the need to allow the natural forest to grow and regenerate and be assisted by proper forest management practices. Lock up and leave is not a natural process. Our early explorers papers often highlight viewing "clear" forests in their journeys, not inhibited by overgrowth, weeds and invasive species, many of which were unfortunately introduced.

Some recognition needs to be given to the current keepers of the forest in the private property owners, who in many cases have managed their properties responsibly for generations and know the value of maintaining their forest areas.

They continue to harvest and preserve and regrow their forests over time.

We have an opportunity now to provide a future balanced responsible approach to the needs of our human population and that of the management of our flora and fauna. This responsibility should be properly recognised and practices and policies put in place to ensure the 88% of lands already preserved are responsibly maintained.