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

Forestry operations in NSW that log native forests are not sustainable. The negative impact that native forest logging has on our forest vegetation, animal and insect populations and diversity and, our own wellbeing far outweighs any reasons for continuing logging. It increases our risks of bushfires and their intensity, pollution, invasive weeds and the threat of invasive species on our wildlife. It robs our fauna of both food sources and secure habitats. It directly works against any attempt to combat climate change and its impact. The destruction it causes cannot be effectively mitigated. The mature trees taken have taken years to grow and it will take years for them to be replaced. It is impossible to manage, without further destruction, the invasive weeds that result from logging. Hollows for native animals and birds to have their young are destroyed and will not exist for future populations. There are more sustainable and forward thinking ways to obtain the products that result from native logging.

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

Australians, particularly First Nations people identify strongly with our wild life and natural environment which are unique across the world. Our spiritual, mental and physical wellbeing are dependent upon a healthy environment. Too many of our native species have or are under threat of becoming extinct. We are a dry continent and are critically dependent upon our rainfall for our very existence. Logging native forests negatively impact directly on our environments ability to generate rainfall and cool our landscape. As a social worker working in a mental health inpatient setting, I have seen first hand the impact that the environment has on people's mental health. For First Nations people they have a direct cultural connection to native forests. Forest landscapes are an important part of their heritage, future, culture and knowledge. Logging native forests compromises ecosystems and does irreparable damage to native habitats.

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

For every product produced by logging native forests there is an alternative. Native forest logging. Native forest logging contributes less than 10% of the total log production in Australia in 2023. 50% of the logs taken from native forests were exported as woodchip. Native forest logging is not only destructive, it is unnecessary.

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

Plantations make up over 90% of Australian hardwood log production. Reducing the amount turned into woodchip would increase the amount of hardwood from plantations that could be used as sawn or veneer timber. Regardless, there are alternatives for hardwood timber products. Softwood plantation industry is more profitable and sustainable.

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

The ecology of our environment is directly linked to our native forests that have not been logged. Our economy is also negatively impacted by native forest logging. Native forest logging directly negatively impacts our water and air quality, wildlife and risk of bushfires. As a result, it affects the health and wellbeing of the residents of many towns, opportunities for tourism and carbon storage and abatement. The Forestry Corporation forest hardwood division runs a loss at the expense at the NSW public. We are paying to the NSW government to destroy our biodiversity and critical habitat for our native species. It directly negatively impacts our First Nations peoples connection to Country. We need to focus on increasing the success that our First Nations Ranger programs have achieved in the recovery and health of our native forests and the critical function of our forests. We need to respect their knowledge and connection to Country. I would say that we need to put our wellbeing before any economic reason to continue logging native forests except that there is no economic benefit from doing so.

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

NSW Native forest logging is estimated to release over 3.5 million tonnes of carbon every year. Native forest logging reduces the amount of stored carbon by more than half of the original value. Ending native forest logging will give our previously logged native forests the ability to regain lost carbon and make a significant contribution to meeting our emission targets. We need to fight against climate change. Climate change is negatively impacting our forest health and our own wellbeing. Native forest logging exacerbates the risk of significant harm that climate change is already causing. Forests that have not been logged are more resilient to our changing climate and the catastrophic fires that are occurring as a result of climate change. Please, please end native forest logging in NSW. It is unnecessary and is actively negatively impacting on our and our forests wellbeing. We need to act now to protect our environment.