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

I do not believe that current practices in NATIVE forestry in NSW are sustainable. One only needs to inspect the native forests around much of the north coast in particular to see even aged stands of trees with few large trees to provide breeding and roosting habitat for native animals. Gone are the days of selective logging and retention of enough habitat trees. I believe that any harvesting of hardwood timber should be from sustainably managed hardwood plantations which are subject to the same silvicultural practices that occur in softwood plantations.

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

Protected native forests have significant biodiversity and aesthetic values and harbour many threatened species including owls, gliders and other marsupials, cockatoos and parrots, and bats. I believe that one of the major reasons these animals are threatened is because of native forestry practices as well as complete habitat loss. First Nations people have a strong connection to native forests.

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

I believe that plantation forests already provide 90% of NSW timber production and logging jobs and that taking timber from native forests is heavily subsidised. The area of plantations should be increased to cover this 10% shortfall but not by converting native forest to plantations.

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

Plantations should be expanded on cleared land which is marginal for food production and while private native forestry might be allowed to continue it should be subject to much tighter regulations than currently apply. The PNF codes do not provide for adequate measures to protect threatened species such as the koala particularly where local government comprehensive koala management plans do not exist. PNF is not adequately regulated to ensure compliance.

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

I believe the Forestry Corporation has failed to maximise the delivery of these outcomes and options. They have regularly breached the conditions which apply under the Integrated Forestry Operation Approvals and cannot be trusted to protect biodiversity values in particular.

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

Protection of native forests from logging and clearing is one of the most effective ways of sequestering carbon. In my mind it is one of the strongest arguments to cease logging of native forests in NSW at a time when we are facing a climate emergency.

Logging of native forests makes bushfires worse, by drying out forests and leaving dead debris on the ground and with the warming of our planet this will become even more of a serious issue.