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

Native forest logging is unsustainable. Despite the removal of protection for mature trees and the adoption of more intensive logging methods the yield from public forests has dropped by 40% since 2010.

Logging increases fire risk and intensity, damages water catchments and waterways, increases penetration of invasive species and changes forest composition. The additional fire burden can last for 40 -70 years. I refer to Prof. David Lindemeyer's scholarly submission for the details. The Black Summer bushfires were a wake up call to us all. We need to nurture and maintain our dwindling reserve of high functioning intact mature forest not plunder it.

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**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

In the face of an increasingly extreme climate mature intact forests provide resilience in the landscape both against extreme heat and to mitigate against flooding. They also provide an invaluable carbon sink and generate rainfall.

The rich biodiversity of our unlogged forest are an amazing treasure. The Japanese have long recognised the health benefits of time spent in natural forest. This irreplaceable ecosystem including its inhabitants many of which we have not yet been discovered, is under threat. 150 threatened species in NSW are directly impacted by logging native forests. It is a terrible indictment of our society if we are unable to protect what little is left of our native forests.

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

The market and demand for timber from native forests is declining, for example Essential energy has recently moved to use concrete power poles.

Plantations already provide 91% of Australia's log production.

Half of the logs taken from native forests in 2023 were turned into woodchip and exported.

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. There is scope for value adding here and using this material to meet domestic demand for higher quality products.

Hardwood sourced from native forests or plantations are no longer necessary for any of the uses identified in this section.

Sawn and treated softwood logs and composite timber products made from softwoods can substitute for all current uses for native forest and plantation hardwoods.

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

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It is entirely feasible to cease logging native forest without having a drastic impact on supplies to the construction industry.

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

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As I said above, 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. There is a place for High-end and luxury native hardwood products to be selectively harvested on private land 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**

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Unlogged and intact healthy native forests have a real and tangible benefit to the economy and ecology of NSW.

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. It also additionally receives tens of millions of dollars in regular equity injections. Effectively this means the people of NSW are paying millions of dollars to destroy the biodiversity and ecological health of their state with no benefit. I would like to see our state forests managed so that they function naturally in the landscape, preserving biodiversity and providing water health, clean air, health benefits, fire resilience, flood mitigation, temperature moderation and carbon capture.

I see First Nations ranger programs as key in managing and restoring the natural and critical function of forests in the landscape.

#### **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**

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Native forest logging in NSW is estimated to release 3.6 million tonnes of carbon every year. This means that ending native forest logging would be the equivalent to removing 840 thousand cars from the roads per year.

Logging in a native forest reduces the amount of stored carbon by more than half of the original value.

A key way to reach Australia's 2030 GHG reduction targets will be to stop native forest logging (<https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/8740433/ending-native-forest-logging-key-to-emissions-reduction-experts/>).

Carbon captured (and biodiversity) does not have to be traded to be of benefit. Indeed not trading avoids the gaming of the system which is so prevalent in Australia.

Climate change is driving increased risks for forest health and continued logging in native forests is exacerbating that risk.

Forests that have not been logged are more resilient to the changing climate and catastrophic fires that are occurring as a consequence.