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

Forestry in native forests is totally incompatible and unsustainable. Despite the Forestry Corporation's overestimation of harvestable timber, the amount of loggable forest has declined so greatly leaving little native forest areas left.

The logging of native forests has environmental implications at a time when we are trying to address climate change issues. Logging of the forests not only reduces the biomass but also the carbon storage.

Another major reason for excluding logging from native forests is the impact on our native fauna. For example, the loss of large mature trees which are an essential part of the forest's ecosystem as we as a valuable food source and habitat for birds and other animals. This is very evident in the Coffs Harbour Logging areas where much of koala habitat and food has been destroyed, In a natural forest ecosystem, hollows become nests and dens for native fauna but logging destroys this system. One hundred and seventy-four species in NSW alone rely on these hollows. Then there is the impact of logging on the rivers, creeks and streams, which results in these waterways being polluted and thereby reducing their healthy function. Logging also increases the risk of fire, erosion, weed infestation.

Given

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

Native forests are of significant and integral part of the spiritual and cultural practice and knowledge of indigenous peoples. They have had an ongoing connection with native forests. Native forests play an invaluable part in our health and well-being. Studies have shown the impact it has on our nervous systems activating the relaxation response. They are an antidote to stress and part of our recreation. These all provided better health outcomes.

Forests cool the landscape, clean the air and generate rainfall - all very important to the current increasing unprecedented hot temperatures and subsequent fires.

Logging has a huge impact on our native flora and fauna, threatening 150 species just in NSW. This is something we can ill afford, as Australia is already listed as having one of the highest levels of endangered and extinction of species. There are 269 nationally listed threatened species in NSW. Many ecosystems, habitats and the pollination process are also negatively impacted by logging.

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

As logging in native forests accounts for only 9% of the total log production, they are not providing a great percentage of timber for Australia.

It would appear that half of this 9% was used for wood chips, the impact on the housing, construction, transport and retail market is minimal and marginal.

Similarly, hardwood is no longer a commodity required from native forests and the sawn and treated softwood logs can be readily substituted these days. In fact, it appears the market and demand for native forest timber is declining.

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

As plantations provide 91% of Australia's log production, the need for native Forest Timber is negligent and hence would have little impact in meeting the timber supply needs for Australia. Plantations could provide a higher proportion of harvested logs and this should be prioritised instead of using Native Forest timber.

Subsidising the logging industry of public native forests is non-competitive and untenable in the future. Our taxpayers money could be used more wisely and effectively.

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 have tangible benefits to the entire ecology and economy of NSW. They impact living conditions for many towns, from water quality in reservoirs, to greater tourism industry opportunities, and carbon storage and abatement.

As 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 receives tens of millions of dollars in regular equity injections.

This is not something the people of NSW should not be paying millions of dollars to destroy the biodiversity of our own state and critical habitat for threatened species

Public native forests have a much higher economic value when they are allowed to function naturally and without logging.

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 reduces the amount of stored carbon by more than half of the original value

Ending native forest logging will allow previously logged forests to regain lost carbon and make a significant contribution to meeting our emissions targets.

Forests that have not been logged are more resilient to the changing climate and catastrophic fires that are occurring as a consequence. Climate change is already driving increased risks for forest health and continued logging in native forests is exacerbating that risk.