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

My position is that to enact an immediate cessation to native forest logging and to develop a plan that allows the industry to be fully based on sustainable plantation forest growing.

The concern is that current practices of native forest logging do not provide for protection of endangered species and are driving some of these to extinction. An example of this is the greater glider but also our iconic endangered koala.

Urgent action is required to cease current practices of native forest logging particularly in the areas where these endangered species are trying to etch out an existence.

One should not overlook the economical reality which is that NSW logging is being subsidised by taxpayer money and is running at a loss which economically is unsustainable.

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

We carry a responsibility to govern our precious resources which native forest are to protect the flora and fauna from being irreversibly destroyed.

There seems to be factual evidence of the Forestry Corporation of NSW targeting areas of both koala intense habitat and greater glider habitat with current and planned schedule of logging far exceeding rates in other logging operations per hectare in the remainder of the state.

It would be easy to infer that this appears to be a targeted and potentially intentional approach to irreversibly destroy the habitat of these species. These species can not come back if they are driven to extinction. This may sound like an emotive call, however I truly believe that we have the power and the wisdom to make the right calls for future generations and the wellbeing of our native wildlife.

I can quote specific locations where this unprecedented and excessive schedule is being targeted for. Thanks to documented science and records it is possible to show that areas in the Styx River, Tuggolo State forest and Tallangata have had documented large numbers up to 500 of greater gliders and evidence of their dens. It is an opportunity to use this data to ensure the logging is stopped before these animals loose their life.

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

The statistics around where our NSW logging operations harvests out of public forests end up is mostly for export as low value style products and wood-chipped away so a change in policy around this would add to the already robust delivery of timber for the Australian market out of plantation growth..

Currently already 90% of Australia's timber needs are met utilising plantation based timber as most of the native forest logging ends up as stated above overseas.

The remaining Australian timber needs could easily be met by redirecting away from exporting unprocessed plantation timber and having this managed in a way to service outstanding Australian needs.

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

We are currently meeting the vast majority of the requirements that we have for Australian timber and with better management of the overseas exports that unprocessed plantation wood is sent to, would provide the remaining needs in the domestic market. Lets not allow our precious native forests to be supplementing overseas markets at the cost of our own nature being destroyed.

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

Our native forests carry a huge opportunity when retained for the survival of the unique flora and fauna we have,. This converts to opportunities for society, families to draw the benefits of spending time in nature and experiencing the complex and interconnected web of life that we as humans are part of and carry the responsible task of preserving for future generations.

Both economical, cultural and management opportunities exist by preserving native forests for Aboriginal involvement . There is a wealth of knowledge that can be applied to benefit current and future generations when the forests are preserved.

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

The value of native forests is immeasurable in so many areas that are currently the most pressing in our society. We know of the carbon capture native forests provide when looking from the perspective of climate change risks.

In a healthy state and not compromised by logging there is a natural broad biodiversity within native forests that is absent in monoculture plantation forests. Reproducing this healthy, biodiversity and broad species interconnection takes centuries and can not be retrieved in a single generation if there is a change of heart.

We have the opportunity to lead with our decisions around the future of species and not their extinction . This should be the guiding light for us now and for generations to come.