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

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Native forest logging across the public forest estate in New South Wales is absolutely unsustainable environmentally and ecologically, socially and economically.

The logging of the public native forest estate needs to be shut down immediately to stop the causation of any further permanent and irreparable harm to our most precious and irreplaceable public assets (our life support systems), our water security, our threatened species and their habitats and the functions of life that public native forests provide for the sustenance (and economic benefit) of agriculture, fisheries and tourism and municipal water supplies.

The logging of the public forest estate is now egregious extinction logging that is nothing but a smash and grab "biomass mining" operation that leaves collapsed ecosystems where previously globally significant public native forests stood. There are no prospects for recovery of forest ecosystems after the industrial logging operations of the Forestry Corporation because the structure, function and integrity of these ecosystems has been so badly harmed. This taxpayer loss-making and immensely destructive logging is running down the asset base of the public forest estate and is endangering lives, assets and properties by drying out landscapes and causing much more frequent and intense fires that create massively escalated risks to human lives.

The logging of the public forest estate is harming and traumatising communities, forest neighbours and concerned

Current logging operations in Northern NSW are heavily concentrated within the Great Koala National Park. A majority of logging operations are within forests identified as the Great Koala National Park (GKNP).

**NATIVE FOREST LOGGING OPERATIONS CURRENTLY MASSIVELY TARGETING THE GKNP - FOUR TIMES GREATER LOGGING INTENSITY INSIDE THE GKNP THAN ACROSS ALL THE PUBLIC NATIVE FOREST ESTATE OUTSIDE THE GKNP NORTH OF SYDNEY**

An audit of native forest logging operations being undertaken by FCNSW at 7 October across the public native forest estate north of Sydney determined that there were 13 active operations WITHIN/INSIDE the 176 000ha identified as the GKNP with a footprint of active operations within the GKNP of approximately 7200 hectares.

Across the remainder of the public forest estate North of Sydney outside the 176 000hectares identified as the GKNP there are only 12 native forest logging operations with a mapped footprint of approximately 7000 hectares. This equates to 1 hectare in every 104 hectares of the public forest estate outside the GKNP being within active logging operations as mapped by FCNSW.

The immediate cessation of logging of public native forests and the protection and conservation of the public native forest estate will:

- \* Save tens of millions of taxpayer dollars each year
- \* Enable the Kyoto climate targets to be met
- \* Ensure no new extinctions
- \* Protect water security that will be critical as the negative impacts of global heating escalate and accelerate
- \* Ensure the maintenance of our most valuable public assets, our life support systems

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\* Prevent further degradation of the public forest estate and will enable restoration and regeneration of forests degraded by logging, weeds, fire and forest dieback such as Bell Miner Associated Dieback.

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

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Our public native forests contain a myriad of critically significant and irreplaceable public interest values such as carbon stores, water security, habitat for our globally significant biota and globally biomedically valuable compounds (medicinal honey) worth tens of billions of dollars that are being destroyed, permanently and irreparably harmed and degraded by the industrial logging operations of the Forestry Corporation.

The public native forest estate is critical habitat for our globally significant biota, this is central to the nature-based tourism industry that is worth tens of billions of dollars to the state economy. The water supply values and water security functions of the public forest estate sustain agriculture, fisheries and all municipal businesses and homes across the eastern seaboard of NSW. Logging of the public forest estate permanently destroys water security and causes substantial harm to all these industries that are collectively worth tens of billions of dollars per annum to the NSW economy. This value massively exceeds the tens of millions of dollars lost by logging native forests each year. Logging the public forest estate is simply a lose-lose-lose situation for biodiversity, water security, carbon stores and the state economy. It must stop.

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

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Logging of public native forests today is an economic basket-case that is losing millions of dollars each month and tens of millions of dollars annually. The products that are generated from the logging and destruction of our globally significant public native forest estate are almost entirely low value products such as wood chip, tomato stakes and pallets. The destruction of globally significant native forests for such low-grade and low-value products is a global tragedy, particularly considering that all these low-grade products have alternatives readily available that do not cause the species extinctions and ecosystem collapse caused by native forest logging. Logging of the public native forest estate must stop immediately to prevent any further irreparable harm to these public assets.

Softwood plantations provide for the vast majority of building materials in Australia and these are profitable to taxpayers. This is the ONLY rational and sustainable future for logging in NSW.

## **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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Softwood plantations are the only way forward because they:

- \* are profitable to taxpayers
- \* provide the vast majority of our nation's building products

There is massive plantation "fraud" occurring within areas that Forestry Corporation identifies as "plantation". Large areas of high conservation value native vegetation across the North Coast of NSW have been fraudulently identified as "plantation" in corrupted internal processes between FCNSW and the Department of Primary Industries that result in thousands of hectares of globally significant native forests being included within a "plantable area" plantation designation and then clearfelled. This includes old growth forests, multiple Threatened Ecological Communities (e.g. Lowland Rainforest, Swamp Sclerophyll Forest on Coastal Floodplain and Subtropical Coastal Floodplain Forest) and globally significant Koala, Greater Glider, Yellow-bellied Glider and Glossy

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Black Cockatoo habitats and the catchment of the Nationally Significant Solitary Islands Marine Park (the first Marine Protected Area in NSW).

Fraudulently claimed plantations must be restored and added to the conservation reserve estate to prevent further harm to our globally significant biota.

**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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The Forestry Corporation of NSW is a [REDACTED] criminal, [REDACTED] and total economic failure and massive loss-making government corporate entity.

Forestry Corporation staff and contractors systematically engage in criminal logging activities across the public forest estate. The NSW Land and Environment Court has found that FCNSW is a repeat and serial offender guilty of criminally destroying conservation values across the public forest estate. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The Forestry Corporation is the only Government entity engaging in targeted [REDACTED] criminal conduct. Specifically, Forestry Corporation staff and contractors have been documented (and in instances convicted of) engaging in the following targeted criminal conduct :

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

There is no other Government entity that systematically engages in criminal conduct. This is an absolutely unacceptable situation that needs to be resolved by disbanding FCNSW, protecting the entire native public forest estate in conservation reserves (thereby meeting our climate targets, saving taxpayer funds, protecting our water security and stopping extinctions) and forming a new profitable softwood plantation entity.

FCNSW fundamentally runs down the quality and value of the public assets that it manages for us all (our forests) on lands that it abuses and destroys with heavily mechanised biomass mining logging operations that collapse globally significant forest ecosystems across the public forest estate. The entire public forest estate needs to be taken out of the control of FCNSW and placed into conservation reserves so that the critical values of the public forest estate are not permanently and irreparably run down any further.

**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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The cheapest, easiest, most effective and lasting method for addressing the climate and biodiversity crises is to IMMEDIATELY STOP LOGGING OUR PUBLIC NATIVE FORESTS. NSW can readily meet its climate targets and immediately stop the compounding and cascading extinctions of our threatened forest dependent biota (e.g. Koala, Yellow-bellied Glider, Greater Glider and Glossy Black Cockatoo) by immediately stopping the logging of the public native forest estate. Because native forest logging of the public forest estate loses tens of millions of dollars annually this will save taxpayers money. These funds can then be invested in actively restoring, regenerating and rehabilitating forests degraded by logging, fire, drought, weeds and forest dieback processes such as Bell Miner Associated Dieback.