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

Sustainable logging practices are needed now more than ever. Removing old trees hampers the growth of forests and destroys habitat for native mammals such as the koala, sugar glider and many other native birds. Current levels of logging are unsustainable and result in key habitats becoming more exposed to destruction.

If the current methods are not reviewed with sustainability in mind, both flora and fauna will add to the currently accelerated extinction rate.

Bushfires are becoming more severe due to climate change, and Australia can ill afford to keep logging while ignoring the fragile state of the forests.

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

Forests are essential habitats for many threatened species that rely on mature, intact forests.

Forests provide important services for the environment and regional communities, such as: Water quality and flow regulation, important for water quality, fishing and tourism. They also provide crucial stability and resistance to environmental disasters such as flooding.

Forests also provide value for communities in recreational activities for locals and visitors.

Forests hold cultural and spiritual significance, especially for indigenous communities.

Habitat connectivity is crucial to supporting biodiversity and ecosystem health.

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

Shifting timber sources to plantation sources instead of native forests is crucial in the long run, since dwindling forests will eventually disappear. Otherwise, sustainable timber sources are essential from a practical and long term financial standpoint.

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

Hardwood and softwood plantation already provide most (around 90%) of Australia's log production. Utilising already cleared land to supplement the last 10% will be the best way to ensure continued wood sources into the future.

Subsidies for logging public native forests should also be reconsidered/removed altogether to shift focus to sustainable methods.

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 provide essential water access and resources to both local communities and the ecosystem.

Restoring and conserving State Forests will increase economic value through tourism, carbon storage capacity, jobs and recreational activities.

The Forestry Corporation is currently unsustainable, both financially and environmentally, and does not yield timber at the same efficiency as managed plantations.

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

Logging native forests worsens the effect of climate change in releasing carbon dioxide, creating a vicious cycle that results in more severe weather events such as bushfires, which brings further damage to the already fragile state of Australia's forests.

Limit to no logging will allow the forests to recover and store more carbon to halt the climate change cycle. Thus, healthy forests are required to resist the effects of climate change, wildfires and drought.

Opportunities in global carbon markets can then open up.