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

Native Forestry logging is not sustainable because it can only operate through major taxpayer subsidies: According to the Nature Conservation Council NSW Forestry Corporation received \$246.9 million worth of grants since the 2019/20 financial year, while the hardwood division (responsible for native forest logging) was granted an additional \$9,787,851.1 in 2020-21 for bushfire recovery projects from the Federal Government and another \$10 million from the State Government for flood relief in 2022. However it still made a loss of \$28.2 million over the same period. According to the Sydney Morning Herald, (March 15 2022) 'The state-owned Forestry Corporation suffered a \$20 million loss last year, with NSW taxpayers forced to pay \$441 per hectare to log critical native forests. "

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

More than 1,918 Australian species are now listed as endangered or threatened with even more expected in the next few Habitat destruction and degradation is the major driver - in the last five years there has been more extensive habitat and forest clearing than ever before, and NSW with Queensland is leading the destruction.

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

- 90% of sawn timbers come from plantations (Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forest, 2023, Australia's State of the Forest Report, Canberra, Australia).
- Native forest logging primarily goes into low value, high volume products such as woodchips, paper pulp, even tomato stakes

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

- NZ (20 years ago) and SA have both transitioned away from logging native forests and instead focussed on plantations, which are more profitable and employ more people, plus are more positive in terms of carbon capture.

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 critical value for threatened and soon to be threatened native species
- habitat destruction which is industrial level logging is the major driver of local extinctions. In 2004 16 532 plants and 3 817 animal species had been identified that are forest-dependant with more species expected to be identified over time due to increasing comprehensive research and reporting (Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry Australian Government 2004).

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

- Major challenge of our time is climate change , native forest logging is in direct contradiction to NSW and Australia generally meeting emissions reduction targets. - Healthy diverse forests that include complex flora including old growth trees offer the best sanctuary for wildlife as proved in the Black Summer fires and are the best storages of carbon.