

NAME REDACTED

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

Logging in Native Forests as is conducted currently is not sustainable. Further losses of environmental values will continue if logging is not phased out. Native forests in NSW have already been subjected to significant logging pressure and what remains should be managed within truly sustainable framework. The impact of climate change on the future of forests' sustainability must also be considered.

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

Native forests have important environmental values which rely on intact ecosystems for functioning. Many endangered and threatened species are reliant on mature, intact forests, with good connectivity. Logging adversely affects these values. Similarly, Aboriginal Cultural heritage is put at risk through logging practices and this warrants proper recognition and protection.

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

Native forests logging supplies only a small proportion of timber needs for construction, and this continues to diminish. Plantation sourced timber should be the origin of choice for future needs, and expansion of the plantation industry would offer better long term supply of timber products, and encourage increased investment in processing infrastructure and employment. This would enable better provision of future needs compared to the shrinking native forest resource.

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

It is desirable to transition as soon as possible to 100% plantation sourced timber. Support for the strong growth in plantations would place both the industry, and the supply needs, on a more stable footing going forward, as demand for timber products is forecast to increase. Appropriately monitored native forest logging on private land could continue to provide some supply.

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**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**

State forests' role should be positioned to deliver other outcomes besides just timber production. Carbon sequestration is a very important role that is currently not recognised. Provision of increased recreational opportunities and tourism could also be significant, particularly in regional areas. Incorporation of indigenous land management practices would offer improved opportunities for employment and engagement. Forests also have important roles in provision of water supply, climate change resilience, and other issues.

**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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Healthy, intact native forests are major carbon sinks and represent both a very good value abatement option and a large opportunity in terms of size. Logging causes significant release of carbon, and these emissions are not costed under current practice. Assigning proper valuation to logging related emissions, and also a market value to the carbon sequestration potential of cessation of logging, would send a strong economic signal in favour of reducing logging. Achieving the net zero targets of both the state and federal governments will require abatement contributions from forest to be maximised, and the low cost of such abatement available from cessation of logging is very attractive.

Improved biodiversity outcomes can also be achieved at relatively low cost with curtailment of logging. Healthy, intact forests are more resilient to the effects of climate change, and are more likely to preserve their biodiversity attributes in the face of such change. Forests also play a role in mitigation of climate change risks more broadly, including amelioration of floods and droughts, storm events etc.