

NAME REDACTED

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

I have been in the timber industry for a long time, and I've seen what the industry means for local towns and villages. I've also witnessed the contraction of the industry due to forests being removed from production. Towns are dying, it's in the best interest of the government to keep the industry to keep people employed in rural areas.

The longevity of the industry indicates that it is managed sustainably. It's in the interest if the industry to maintain its sustainability to sustain its own viability

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

I'm a member of the rural fire brigade and I understand what happens when the state forests are locked up and not maintained; it increases the fire danger for the community. Fire roads have not been maintained in what are now conservation areas, everything is overgrown and not accessible. If contraction of the industry is enforced, making it harder for landholders to access contractors to manage their lands and removing a source of income for management; they can't maintain their lands and you're creating greater hazards.

Fire decimates all forest values indiscriminately.

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

Demand for solid hardwood product has not decreased, even with the introduction of alternate and hybrid timber products. The alternate is to import from overseas.

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

Private native forestry provides timber to the market in our region. Private owners work within the rules set overseen by Local Land Services. Timber is commonly a side business for farmers in the region to sell in hard times. Landowners use the money from logging to maintain their properties; this maintenance has massive impact on if a property can be saved in a fire. If private native forest owners aren't empowered to manage their forests than fire danger is going to get worse. If the landscape becomes a continuous run of unmanaged state-owned reserve combined with the unmanaged neighboring private land, there's nothing that can be done to save lives, infrastructure or the environment in a fire event.

Hardwood plantations for solid timber were established post 1990's the trees aren't old enough to supply quality logs yet. The timber from pine plantations is used for different products than native forest timbers; they're not comparable.

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 can and do deliver a wide range of benefits. Closing forests to responsible harvest will increase fire, weed and pest animal threats, risking the value of any benefits offered by the forested lands. \

Closing the forests to harvest will decrease timber availability risking the overharvest of privately owned resources and or the contraction of the industry. Forest and timber industry workers have families, they are community members and are volunteers. They invest in local communities with their time and wages are spent in local, often rural areas.

Noone has more interest in the health and maintenance of forest health and sustainability than forest and timber workers

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

All forests store carbon, not just untouched forests. Managing forest for harvest and regeneration created carbon stores in the forest and in the products harvested from the forest.

Biodiversity is maintained through keeping food and nesting trees, habitat and stream buffers. The risks associated with removing management from the forest include fire, pest animal and weed infestations. All of which will reduce the viability of the markets you wish to create and maintain.