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

I work in timber harvesting and have family members also in the industry. I've worked in both native forest and hardwood plantations. The workers in the forests are the most concerned with the sustainability of the industry. You don't spend your life working in a forest unless you care about them.

Workers in the forest work to the rules set by the government to make sure the work is environmentally sound. Why are the public discussions around forests and timber supply always not inclusive of the rules and regulations we abide by?

Forestry is not deforestation. clearing for agriculture, housing and infrastructure is deforestation and unsustainable

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

State rules ensure environmental and cultural values are maintained during a harvest operation. Forest workers are excited to see beautiful areas of bush. By harvesting and managing properly areas of the bush that are otherwise crowded out or stagnant can be released and revitalized by harvesting. The infrastructure created for a harvest operation can be used for access for other forest management activities e.g. weeds and fire

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

Timber will always be in demand for visual and practical properties. The use of alternate products such as steel or concrete are not environmentally sustainable. These products is mined and refined at a large carbon cost. Mined products are not renewable like trees and leave a massive scar in the landscape.

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

Hard and softwood plantation timbers play a role in the current timber supply chain. Plantation hard wood products are mostly for fiber. The trees that make good fiber do not make good structural timber. The hardwood plantations grown for sawn timber are still at an age where they aren't producing timber to replace short falls in native forest timber volumes.

Softwood plantations are utilized for fiber and milled products that don't compete with native forest timbers. Softwood plantation timber is cheap to produce in comparison to native forest timbers, any section of the market they can compete on, they already occupy.

Private Native Forestry is viable in NSW. The volumes of timber from this source could be increased if there was more government extension and information widely available in the community. Disinformation about forestry does not help the uptake of the practice private landholders.

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

12 % of publicly owned native forest are available to harvest and a fraction of a percent is harvested each year under strict guidelines. Incorporation of indigenous management and new science can increase the desirable outcomes of state forests. Placing more of our important productive forests in the underfunded and undermanaged reserve system would only decrease forest values.

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

The amount of state forest that is actually harvested per year, versus the area that is available to harvest, versus the amount of forested area in the reserve system is tiny. If we as a state can not realize the benefits from the reserved 88% of the forest why should we pull the other 12% out of production and not realize the benefits of carbon stored in timber products, the offset of the used of alternate carbon and energy hungry products such as steel and concrete.

Once a forest (or fraction there of) is harvested it does not stop being a forest and having environmental and cultural value