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

There is no evidence that the industry is sustainable; economically, environmentally or socially. It is primarily a low-skilled industry with limited potential for advancement in terms of technology adoption or skills development. It no longer has the social license to operate (Australians do not want their forests logged for low value-add products). Australians want their forests protected for the benefit of recreational use, carbon storage, generation of clean air and as habitat.

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

Many of our native species are threatened, with habitat loss and genetic connectivity being key threats. With climate change, these vulnerabilities are exacerbated through fire damage to key habitat, further exposing vulnerable populations. Forest corridors, connecting national parks, remnant bushland and private properties need to be protected to ensure adequate gene flow. First Nations cultural values are not adequately considered- for example, Pine Creek State Forest in Gymbayngirr country, is currently being logged against the aspirations of the local communities.

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

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

Alternative means to fulfil timber demand are available- for example, incentivising tree farming on private property that is currently not forested.

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

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

State Forests are not simply plantation timber, they are often indistinguishable from adjacent National Park habitat (e.g. Pine Creek State Forest and Bongil Bongil National Park). Their environmental value needs to be assessed, as the NSW Government's purported "nature positive" focus, requires the priority of environmental value over timber value.