

NAME REDACTED

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

I've worked in the forest industry for 19 years. The people who work in the industry care about its sustainability and the health of the forests. The idea that timber workers are indifferent about the health of the forest and the environment is perpetuated by the media and not true.

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

Forest and timber are part of our culture. No forests, not timber industry. The forests must be maintained to guarantee the other. Forest workers want to leave healthy and productive forests for future generations. The beauty of a forest is recognised by forest workers. Moreover, a person who spends their life in the forest understands the impacts of forest management and how to manage and mitigate issues such as fire and weed infestation.

Simple statements about locking up forests or that forest harvesting is deforestation show a lack of understanding of any form of forest management.

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

The demand for timber for all uses is based on its properties, either structural or visual. The alternative products on the market aim to do what timber does but cost more in terms of production and chemical use. The use of timber should be encouraged.

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

Softwood plantations are well utilised and the industry well established. Hardwood plantations need longer to come to maturity for sawn products, the scale of hardwood plantations is limited by the need for good land to plant on, land that is used for agriculture and housing.

Private NF is limited by over governance i.e. dule consent and lack of land holder understanding, PNF is viable but the amount of wood harvested on private land cannot be legislated to maintain supply.

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

The role of state forest harvesting should be maintained. The media and special interest groups should be held accountable for misinformation and lies that cause hysteria.

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 clear felled, they are not decimated, they are harvested a small amount at a time at an interval of decades.

The opportunities to realize environmental or outcomes are not damaged by harvesting as the media would have you believe