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

The old growth forests available now are extremely limited in number and would be harvested over a relatively short time and replacement would take many decades (for hardwood) and in some instances would be difficult to germinate. This is hardly sustainable.

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

Old growth forests provide valuable habitat for many plants and animals (Koalas, sugar gliders) and nesting opportunities for many species of birds. Some of these are endangered. Younger trees do not possess the necessary hollows for nesting (only provided by the tree when of a great age).

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

With increased plantation activity the demand for timber could easily be met (IF STARTED NOW), Species of tree with short growth times do exist. There is ample land (ex farming) available for development of such plantations. Employment opportunities for workers in the existing timber industry would reappear in the plantation activities.

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

refer to 3 above

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

refer to 2 & 3 above

For the plantation industry to replace the old forest logging activities there is the need for a massive effort from government, and it is needed NOW.

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

There isn't any well informed, rational person on Earth who doesn't realise the vital importance of plant life in the matter of climate control. In addition the fact that larger trees remove more carbon from the atmosphere than smaller ones supports the cessation of old growth forest logging.