

NAME REDACTED

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

The current system of NSW forestry is completely unsustainable, being heavily subsidised and inefficient. Logging native forests removes the older trees, removing hollows and other habitat for forest wildlife, such as the Koala and the Great Glider. Continued logging of native forests will likely contribute greatly to the extinction of forest dependent wildlife, which we simply cannot afford. Logging of plantations proves to be much more sustainable and resource efficient.

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

The native forests of NSW are vital refuges for many threatened species that rely on mature, intact forests for habitat. Fragmenting these habitats reduces movement of wildlife and therefore adaptability to climate change and habitat loss. The less forest there is, the more ineffective the remaining habitat becomes because of this. Wildlife need to be able to move within large areas of protected intact habitat, seasonally, in search of food and for breeding.

Forests provide important services for the environment and regional communities, such as tourism, connection to nature, cultural and spiritual significance, especially for indigenous communities.

Water quality and flow regulation is important for water quality, fishing and tourism.

Much of our local economy relies heavily on tourism and our native forests provide recreational values for both locals and visitors from all around the world. We are so fortunate to have what forests we have left, it would be extremely unwise to continue to destroy it.

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

Shifting to plantation timber reduces pressure on native forests, supporting sustainable industry practices. All industries need to be working towards sustainability given our climate change plight. Plantations can supply our high quality and composite timber products. There is no longer any need to log public native forests to build houses.

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

Hardwood and softwood plantations already provide 91% of Australia's log production. Investment in hardwood plantation on already cleared land would supply timber products into the future.

Shifting to higher-value plantations can better meet timber needs.

Ending public forest subsidies would boost sustainable timber production on private lands.

**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**

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Healthy native forests provide essential water resources.

Protecting and restoring State Forests will increase the economic value through tourism, carbon storage, job creation and recreational opportunities.

The Forestry Corporation is currently financially unsustainable, relying on government support and yielding less timber compared to managed plantations.

Diverse forest management, particularly Aboriginal models, can enhance the cultural and social value of forests.

**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**

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Logging in native forests releases large amounts of carbon through wastage and inefficiencies, contributing to climate change. Allowing the forests to remain intact locks the carbon away in the wood and the soil. Growing new trees in plantations also contributes to more carbon being stored in the soil.

Healthy, intact forests are essential for reducing the impacts of climate change like wildfires and drought.

By stopping logging, forests can play a large role in mitigating climate risks and supporting opportunities in carbon markets.