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

Native forests in NSW have been used for timber for over two centuries, and well-managed for at least half of that time. The fact they can continue to supply large volumes of timber from a decreasingly available area, while maintaining the values that have people advocating for them to be transferred to national parks is a tribute to the sustainability of the management practices. The great unknown from here is the potential effects of climate change but active management of forest and uses of plantation and native forest timber can help to mitigate this.

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

State forests have clearly been and can continue to be managed for multiple values, often in the same locality. Sustainability managed forests, as NSW forests are, are not a source of species extinctions and often more is known about the values in these forests compared to other vegetation types.

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

Reduction in timber availability does not reduce demand for that timber, often as the consumer does not make a distinction about the source. The outcome is that the timber is sourced from elsewhere - transported further, processed non-locally, more "timber miles", less connection between the source and the end use, and if sourced from overseas likely with lower environmental regulation and protection for workers. The ceasing of native forest timber harvesting from state forests in Victoria has resulted in it being replaced with timber imported from interstate (e.g. Tasmania) and overseas (e.g. Brazil). This is not a net benefit.

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

Government support/incentives to reduce Australian reliance on imports are likely required for plantations (especially due to the competing land uses and long-term investment for plantations). The likely increase in value of timber on private land in the event of reductions in the areas available on State Forest should support that sector, although improved regulation may be required to ensure it is sustainable long term - currently it is usually in the interest of the landowner to maximize their short-term return.

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 stewards of state forests have endeavored for a long time to manage the forests for all these values, however they can sometimes be competing and not all values can be managed equally in the same location. The landscape scale management approach needed to be emphasised and

endorsed by governments, regulators, environmental NGOs to ensure NIMBY-style approaches don't obscure the bigger scale of management that sees these values maintained across the landscape.

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 primary response should be for companies etc. to reduce their actual impact on the environment rather than offset it. Entities that have benefited greatly from uses of natural resources in the past (e.g. farming, mining) with little regulation should contribute to a restoration of these values before being given a return for any improved practices.