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

I am very concerned about the unsustainable nature of current logging practices in NSW. Australia is the only developed nation who is on the list of deforestation hotspots. That is appalling.

Forestry has lost its social licence yet continues to operate in controversial and self-titled ways. Options and pathways for industry members to transition away, through education and retraining needs to occur

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

The current process for Forestry Corps environmental assessment is woeful. Time and time again they have been hauled before the courts and found guilty of breaching legislation. Their flora and fauna survey are not rigorous nor even in cases suitable, ie looking for gliders (nocturnal) during the day.

Their approach is purely a box-ticking exercise and it demonstrates poor practices and terrible governance or accountability.

Native forests should not be logged.

Plantations that are now high quality habitat and mixed forests should not be logged.

Native animals move between these areas and adjacent native forest, as habitat area decreases. Better consideration also needs to be made to the fragmentation of forest and reduction in animal movement and impact on genetic diversity.

Habitat including large hollow trees so long to form, often not within the timeframe between logging periods

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

I understand that we as a society need timber products, however the checks and processes and areas being logged are not suitable nor thorough enough.

Timber harvesting should only be occurring in plantation forests in appropriate locations. Ie, not high angled slopes, not in drinking water catchments and not with endangered animals or plants

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

Better oversight is needed to address PNF, its an area of forestry that is often left out of statistics and the discussion, yet these areas are being cleared at an astonishing rate. Landholders stand to make a lot of money and often have reduced oversight and a clear conflict of interest.

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

Saving trees is climate action.

The wet tall forests of Australia are some of the densest carbon sinks in the world.

There are huge volumes of carbon released by the burning of forest biomass that is classed as waste (up to 60%).

Logged and regenerating forests have great evaporation and lower water retention, resulting in higher risks.

Cutting down the forest not only reduces the ability to store carbon, but actively releases carbon and promotes wildfire - feeding into a feedback loop within climate change.

Forests should be protected now, not cut down and planted again so carbon credits can be claimed. Existing forest/ habitat is worth far more now, compared to a slashed and burned then reseeded area.