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

Dear Independent Forestry Panel, This is a submission to your inquiry into the sustainability of current and future forestry operations in NSW. I hope the panel will recommend that native forest logging be brought to an end in NSW as that is what is needed for sustainability, environmental and Aboriginal cultural reasons.

Native forest logging is a loss-making industry that is costing the taxpayer millions of dollars every year. There are far better ways to spend public money.

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

Native forest logging is driving species like the koala and greater glider to extinction by destroying their habitat. These forest-dependent wildlife need intact and healthy forests to thrive and survive. Native forest logging causes destructive bush fires. Older forests are more resistant to bush fire, and for forests to grow old we have to stop logging them. Traditional Owners continue to raise concerns about how logging destroys First Nations cultural heritage. This is an important opportunity for government to manage forests in ways that recognise Traditional Owner rights and aspirations.

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

While there is considerable pressure on forestry to supply the needs of NSW housing, construction and other demands in mining, transport and retail, the NSW government is better advised to seek solutions to these pressures that do not include denuding our native forests for the above reasons. There is a need to focus on recycling timber products and looking for alternatives to timber products for these needs in construction, transport etc.

Protected forests provide greater benefit to more people, and we need NSW's forests to be managed for the benefit of the community, not just a handful of vested interests.

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 best way to meet our decarbonising efforts and reduce the threat of climate change is to leave our native forests intact. You cannot do that if you removing our forests which are natural sources of carbon capture and storage.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I look forward to hearing from you in regard to this submission and the outcomes of the review. Sincerely, [REDACTED]