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

It's not sustainable to log native forests. Selective logging is not a low impact activity and removing older trees is especially damaging and is not recoverable in the short term.

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

The environmental values of native forests need to be properly taken into account. Australia is one of the most biodiverse countries in the world and the environmental, social and health benefits of biodiversity are now realised to be significant. Throwing this long term value away for a subsidised industry that is already being stopped in other States just doesn't make sense as a policy. There are so many amazing and unusual species in Australia that makes it a unique place in people's imaginations around the world. It is undoubtedly a tourist draw, regardless of the inherent value of the environment.

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

There is no need for native forests to supply timber for housing. Plantation timber can supply the needs and well managed plantations can still provide jobs.

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

Plantation timber currently supplies 91% of needs. If required, establishing well managed hardwood plantations on cleared land would bring additional benefits to the local environment including (where relevant) for soil erosion, flood management and salination.

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

There is an economic opportunity in considering the wider value of diverse forest management. Examples include eco-tourism (or just tourism), sport (eg mountain biking) and in avoiding the release of more carbon into the atmosphere. It is important that communities are supported in a transition from one type of economic activity to another. With the amount of subsidy being provided now, there's not argument for not applying a decent level of funding for this.

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

State government could be in a unique position to provide a foundation for such market-based activities. These would need to be well managed and regulated as it's not possible to trust

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unregulated markets, regardless of what private interests will say. This is an opportunity for new types of employment, as well as funding support for communities in transition from one type of work to another.