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

I live and work in regional NSW. I work in timber milling producing sawn native forest timber. The mill I work in is now being run by the 3rd generation of the same family. Sustainability of the industry is safe guarded by the investment in improved technologies to best recover high quality product from the logs and use all the log for a product, from clear wood for joinery to saw dust for chicken farms.

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

The environmental and cultural values of forests are safe guarded by most forests being in national park or reserve. The rest of the forest is surveyed for threatened species and habitat before and after logging. There are rules around waterways, roads and drainage. Threatened species are not impacted by logging operations because the way a forest is logged is in a patchy fashion to make sure habitat corridors are there and big buffer areas are placed around signs or sightings of different plants and animals. This is also true for Aboriginal cultural heritage.

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

Timber is a versatile material. The products we produce are all consumed in the market. There is a constant need for wood and wood products. The phasing out of plastics will consume more wood.

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

Plantation material is already in the market. If it could replace native forest timber it would have. Plantation timbers are cheaper and less controversial to produce, making it easier. Where the product is replaceable with plantation timber eg pine house framing or hardwood chip for fiber, plantation products dominate the market. The supply from private native forest is dependent on private forest owner wants.

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

State forests are needed to provide the timber to the population that isn't available from plantations and not certain from private resource. As outlined already, harvesting is managed to support the other values from the forest.

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 opportunity to double down on the importance of the resource in its role in the domestic market and the protections offered to the environment and the values of timber for storing carbon is now.