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

I have worked in the timber industry most of my adult life (started as an 19 year old, took 8 years out for family and then went back to work in the timber industry for 20 years) and I have first hand knowledge as to what the industry means for local towns and its people. I have seen the reduction of the industry due to forests being put into National Parks and areas being taken out of operation. I do not want to see my town die. I do not want to see other towns die, it is in the government's interest to keep the Native Hardwood Forests operational to keep people employed in regional/rural areas. The longevity of the industry indicates that it is managed sustainably. Its in the interest if the industry to maintain its sustainability to sustain its own viability. A lot of the forests on the Far South Coast have been harvested then some thinned more than once. I have seen were an activist against the harvesting of native forests declare about destroying the pristine forests which was a forest that had been logged years before.

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

Having worked in the timber industry for so long I have seen what happens when the state forests are locked up and not maintained; it increases the fire danger for the community - refer to the 1952 fire reports and those of the more recent 2020 fires. Roads have not been maintained in what are now conservation areas, everything is overgrown and not accessible. If you reduce or wipe out the native forest harvest industry, you are making it harder for landholders to access contractors to manage their lands; they cannot maintain their lands and ypi are creating greater hazards. Fire destroys all forest values indiscriminately.

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

Demand for solid hardwood product has not decreased. Timber is a renewable resource and is far better than steel and concrete. The alternate is to import from overseas at huge expense to consumers and thus the Government is contributing to destruction of some rain forest areas in other countries.

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

Private native forestry provides timber to the local sawmills and chipmill. Private property owners must work under strict rules set by Local Land controllers. Timber is commonly a side business for farmers in the region to sell in hard times. Landowners use the money from logging to maintain their properties; this maintenance has massive impact on if a property can be saved in a fire. Softwood - pine plantations is used for different products than native forest timbers; so you ca not compare them.

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 offer a wide range of benefits. Closing forests to responsible harvest will increase fire, weed and pest animal threats, risking the value of any benefits provided by native forests. Closing the forests to harvest will decrease timber availability risking the overharvest of privately owned resources and/or the contraction of the industry.

Forest and timber industry workers have families, they are community members and are volunteers. They invest in local communities with their time and wages are spent in local, often rural areas. No one has more interest in the health and maintenance of forest and sustainability than forest and timber workers

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

All forests store carbon, not just untouched forests. Maybe the Government should promote that fact - Managing forest for harvest and regeneration created carbon stores in the forest and in the products harvested from the forest. Biodiversity is maintained through keeping food and nesting trees, habitat and stream buffers. The risks associated with removing management from the forest include fire, pest animal and weed infestations. All of which will reduce the viability of the markets you wish to create and maintain. NSW cannot successfully manage and maintain the National Parks they have - look at the mess a lot of them are in - if an audit of National Parks on what is living in them, then the Government might realise what is actually in them, clean out the weeds and stop them being fire hazard time bombs.