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

State owned forest have been managed for timber production under state legislation since the early 1900's. The validity of the forest to be considered for entry into the national park system is testament to the sustainable management of the resource and its values.

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

State forests managed for timber production are also managed for the continuation of forest values as the forest is regenerated. This is not true when forests are cleared for agriculture (the main driver of deforestation), housing or infrastructure.

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

Timber stores carbon when in use.

The demand for timber and timber products outstrips our production as a nation for all applications.

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

To reduce timber production and force the use of steels and concrete is counter to the low carbon future we have been aiming for.

Over regulation of private timber harvesting, both native forest and plantation will lead to less participation in the industry. This is not an environmental win as the funds from timber production are often used by private land holders for land management. The fire seasons will become more dangerous and the pest and weed problems worse.

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 the only tenure of forest that can offer all of these outcomes and provide options for diverse management. Other tenures, privately owned or reserved forests can't due to policy or access.

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

Keeping forest under the state forest management system ensures forests are being managed for regeneration. Regeneration and storing carbon in sawn timber provides the best carbon outcome.