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

My submission is influenced by a strong commitment to the immediate end of logging in Native Forests. The practice is unsustainable. I support the Frontier Economics report: Transition Support for the NSW Native Forest Sector, which lays out the financial argument for ceasing logging in Native Forests and the transition costs for those engaged in the industry. The cost, the environmental damage, the loss of biodiversity, the impact on adaptation and mitigation of climate change, and the loss of sacred places all support the end of logging in native forests.

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

I go on frequent bush walks and have noted the destruction of magnificent trees, the reduction of habitat and the obvious threats to biodiversity and to threatened species. Koala, for example, have lost much of their habitat to fire and to encroaching human settlement and industry. Their survival depends on maintaining our remaining native forests. Aboriginal friends are distressed at the destruction of important sites and a sense of the bush as they and their ancestors knew it. We have destroyed much of the fertile land with western agricultural practices. We must preserve what is left relatively intact.

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

It is probable that we will have to increase our softwood timber farms, although it would be valuable to diversify the wood grown and not to remove all the trees so that older trees can support the planting of new trees and we do not leave bare ground that will increase evaporation. We also need to conserve the wood we have. We need to look both at supply and demand. For example, we need a movement toward smaller, more efficient dwellings that use less embedded energy. Any building, or extension that is demolished should be evaluated to see if materials can be reused or repurposed before carting it all to the dump.

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

As said above, the supply must not include Native forests. Unfettered growth may have to slow. We need a just transition for those in the industry - workers, carters mill owners and operators-- with redundancy packages, retraining, reemploying.

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

Wherever possible, and they wish. it is desirable to engage Aboriginal people in the management of our forests. They have skills and a love and knowledge of the land that should not be

overlooked. Their knowledge may be crucial in managing fire. Certainly a vibrant forest is less prone to fire than a desiccated one.

We need to develop low impact recreational areas to allow a love of nature to flourish. We must stop the permanent damage that logging in native forests has created. We need rehabilitation projects, not destructive projects.

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

A healthy forest, one with a diversity of species and ages of trees and plants, will hold carbon, help clean our water, and provide habitat for thousands of different species. The rich underground mycelium world thrives, where undisturbed. They are essential to a vibrant ecosystem. We must take an eco-system approach to our forests, not look through a single lens, like the demand for wood or the inheritance of a destructive industry..