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

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Records show that NSW Forestry is well aware of its requirements to have a sustainable and diverse industry. Being highly regulated, Forestry is conscious of its obligations to keep the NSW forests productive and sustainable through selective harvesting and the planting a selection of a diverse range of trees.

This is far better for the environment, including wildlife, rather than relying on imported timber, some of which has been reported as being deforestation of our neighboring countries. Growing hardwood plantation trees within Australia can actually reduce the world's carbon footprint. By having such corporations such as NSW Forestry will ensure that we are able to sustain affordable timber for future generations. Australia is already experiencing the problems, including costs, of having to rely on foreign investment with loss of manufacturing, control of vital assets, etc. Another advantage to the current sustainable NSW Forestry is the contribution to the NSW economy, as well as, the employment that is generated.

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

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Having a corporation such as NSW Forestry will ensure the future of forests as a haven for threatened species and Aboriginal cultural heritage. Good management will maintain the environment for all wildlife and will help restrict the devastation from such factors as out-of-control fires. Tree harvesting and replanting can better encourage the habitat for all wildlife and the control of our ever present fires.

More Aboriginal employment will also assist with protecting cultural sites and their knowledge of local conditions.

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

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With our housing shortage, timber is at a premium, which is another reason not to rely on imports. Presently, we are a net importer of timber and wood products. There is a growing demand for timber in the world and we should be looking at increasing our state forestry corporations instead of trying to shut them down.

Foreign companies will only hold Australia to ransom.

It is not just housing that will be impacted. Hardwood timber is also essential for other industries such as mining, infrastructure, etc. The follow on to this is the employment that it generates.

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

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Private native forests will not be able to meet supply demands.

Harvesting of trees on private land is also restricted and private native forests will not have the diversity that is required for timber. Private native forests will be more interested in turnover for

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profit, which in turn, will lead to less diversity in our timber. Private native forestry is also more interested in using our good agricultural land, which in itself is also becoming a premium resource. Foreign investment will also be involved, which will become harder to regulate. Private native forestry is also be less aware of the environment and habitat of our native fauna.

**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**

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Another advantage of State forests is their being focused on the longer term future rather than profitability. Many townships rely on State Forestry for economic stability. Forestry employees support local businesses, schools, sporting clubs, etc leading to further regional employment and facilities in these areas.

Increase of regional population in Australia has often been a well discussed topic with our politicians.

**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**

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NSW State Forestry is crucial to the lowering of carbon footprint. We hear frequently that timber importers in neighboring countries have little regard for sustainable harvesting. Transport emissions, erosion, loss of wildlife habitat are only a few problems being reported.

NSW Forestry have the experience to maintain a responsible and sustainable timber industry. Not only can this be watched over, but regulation and common sense will ensure the continuation of this much needed industry. Employees of this corporation are well aware managed forests and growing trees has many advantages, such as sustained climate change benefit, etc. This should be encouraged, not threatened!