

NAME REDACTED

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**Location:** New South Wales

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

Native forest logging is unsustainable and cause great harm to our ecosystem. More than 170 native species in Australia rely on tree hollows for shelter. Tree hollows take over 100 years to form in trees so are not easy replaced. These animals have a right to a safe home. Deforestation is also causing erosion and threatens safe drinking water. We must stop logging our native forests. It is not sustainable.

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

Native forests in NSW hold significant cultural and spiritual value for First Nations people. They are spaces for rituals, connection to elders and are sacred sites. These forests are also the home to over 269 nationally listed threatened species, we cannot take away more of their habitat and expect these species to survive. These species and culture activities make Australia who we are, they are unique to us we should take pride in these species and landscapes. They are crucial to our survival with the forests being key climate drivers helping to produce rainfall, provide clean air and cool the climate while the animals within these play important pollination roles. Nothing is more crucial to our survival than our forests ecosystems.

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

Logging in native forests accounted for only 9% of the total log production in Australia in the year 2023. Native forest logging contributes only 2.4 million of the total 25 million cubic metres for that year. We need to be using plantation timber for construction, mining, housing etc. 50% of the logs taken from native forests are turned into low cost wood chip. This is a waste of the valuable material. It's a disgrace, the trees are much more valuable left standing. Native forest logs are not relied on for the industries mentioned above, softwood plantation timber is being used more within the industry. The market and demand for native forests is declining rapidly, the recent example of Essential Energy moving away from power poles harvested from native forests is just one example

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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**

Plantations already provide 91% of Australia's log production. We should be supporting how we can help this industry support all production rather than Subsidising the logging of public native forests by the Forestry Corporation. This is non-competitive and distorts the market away from the more profitable softwood plantation industry.

**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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Native forests have a massive potential to positively impact the entire ecology and economy of nsw if left standing. They support water quality and quantities in many towns, bring in tourism, provide First Nations people with fulfilling jobs and provide carbon storage.

The native forests hardwood division runs at a loss, tax payers should not be paying money to support an industry which is undermining there standard of living.

**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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Stopping native forest logging will go a long way in positively contributing to our climate agreements.

Ending native forest logging would be the equivalent to removing 840 thousand cars from the roads per year.

Older growth forest is more resilient to climate change and will be able to continue to function as a carbon sink. New growth forest is highly susceptible to weeds, fire and requires a huge amount of water. This young forests does not support wildlife either. We must save the forests we have to secure biodiversity in our fauna and flora.