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

I am strongly in favour of an end to native forest logging. I believe we can manage our needs for timber based on sustainable plantations. These plantations must not displace native forests. Logging of native forests is leading to the extinction of species, such as the Greater Glider and Koala and so cannot be described as sustainable. It takes many decades to replicate the biodiversity of established native forest and the current approach seems to me to be unnecessarily fraught with the risk of doing permanent, irreversible harm. Logging public native forests is costing the taxpayer millions and leading to permanent damage to our forests.

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

Our local forests including the remnants of Gondwana rainforest are huge tourist draw cards in their natural state. We have an opportunity to expand on this and draw more tourism into the region. Where we live, the economic opportunities afforded by eco tourism far outstrip the economic value of forestry and the two cannot coexist where logging native forest is destroying the very values that people are seeking.

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

This can be met by plantation timber. However it is important that existing native forest MUST NOT be cleared to make way for plantations. There is plenty of other land.

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

I think this needs to be worked through. The destruction of native forests on private land is no more sustainable than the destruction of public native forests. The animals, trees and waterways do not work within abstract human boundaries so it is incumbent on good management to ensure that activities across different categories of land consistently deliver sustainable outcomes regardless of the ownership status of the land.

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 has the potential to deliver enormous value to NSW and the community by acting as a custodian for our precious native forests for all. This should be the focus of State Forests when it comes to native forests.

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

We need healthy forests for holding carbon, cleaning our water, providing habitat, improving fire management, providing recreation, spiritual connection and logging native forests damages all these values.