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

The current practice of industrial logging is not environmentally or economically sustainable. It would be cheaper to pay out contracts than supply the logs. Industry workers down the chain can be supplied with plantation logs. No natural forest - old growth or regrowth should be used for wood chips. The ecosystem services provided by forests such as water management, carbon storage and animal habitat far out way the economic 'gain' from logging.

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

What remains of our native forests must be protected immediately. Hundreds of species of animals are reliant upon hollows for breeding and shelter. These hollows take at least 80-100 years to form. We cannot replace these in a few years - planting 1000's of habitat trees etc won't fix this problem.

Most of our forests are now in a regenerative phase and need to be either left alone or managed for weeds and fuel so that they can have a chance of recovering without being further debilitated by intense wildfires. We may have hope of returning to some form of indigenous practice if we can reduce the fuel loads that have been created by intense repeated logging.

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

Plantation hardwoods can provide the structural timbers needed for building and industry if they are not sent off as wood chips. Most domestic timber is from softwood plantation. The focus now must be in establishing and managing plantations on already cleared land. Alternative materials must also be upscaled, including hemp and recycled plastic. Redirect forestry workers.

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

As already stated, plantations on already cleared land need to be established and alternatives like hemp expanded.

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 as a business entity have proven to be inefficient and ineffective managers of our forests m. They loose money, don't follow rules set by the EPA and are wasteful and destructive. Public using forest areas as walking tracks, cycling tracks, camping etc is great and should continue.

Unfortunately Aboriginal forest management models don't really apply anymore as the forests are too far removed from their former grand selves where large trees dominated and areas of grassy understorey were able to be maintained by regular mosaic burning.

Surveying and protecting of large hollow-bearing trees must be undertaken now and this should be one of the guiding principles for future management.

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

Ongoing management of forests for biodiversity based on hollows and habitat has to be the driver for all future decisions. Prevention of wildfires which release massive amounts of carbon must also be managed and not by the use of large hazard reduction burns. Thinning of small gauge regrowth is necessary and may even provide some chipping timber.