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

We are already witnessing the effects of climate change and Australia's rate of biodiversity loss and species extinction is shameful.

Native forest logging is unsustainable both environmentally and economically and has lost its social licence. We need to dramatically lower our carbon emissions and preserving the trees and forests we have as well as planting more (on a grand scale) should be part of the plan to do so. As a veterinarian, I know how incredibly important hollow bearing trees are (it takes 100 years for tree hollows to form) to provide nesting and shelter for wildlife. In addition logging leads to significant erosion, waterway pollution and weed/ introduced species invasion.

I volunteer with the RFS and the increasing threat of catastrophic bushfire events is deeply concerning particularly as we know that native forest logging increases the intensity and threat of these fires.

It is unacceptable that at this time when we should be regenerating forests and protecting mature native trees that logging has been intensified. We need to safeguard what we have left and find other sources of timber and alternative jobs for workers.

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

Our food security and agricultural success relies on effective pollination of crops.

Pollinators need mature, healthy (unlogged) native forests to survive and continue their important role both within forests and across agricultural and farmland.

We are already witnessing a sharp decline in our pollinator numbers and this is concerning for many reasons, food production and security being one.

Native logging has a huge impact on the ecosystems and species that live there. 150 threatened species are directly affected and we will lose them (adding to our shameful extinction record) if we continue this destruction of native forests.

First Nations people who I am grateful to call friends, are pained by the ongoing loss of country - Country is everything - not just the land (the sky, the rocks and soil, the waterways, the animals and plants). They have a deep connection to the forests and these places are a critically important to cultural practices, knowledge and identity.

We should learn from our First Nations sisters and brothers to be custodians of the land and cherish what little native forest remains, once it's gone, it's gone forever.

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

People are appalled that around half of the trees logged from these forests were exported in the form of wood chips - what a disgrace!

The market for native wood logging is fast declining (as I mentioned before - it has lost its social licence now that people understand where it is coming from).

We have good viable substitutes like composite timber products that can meet the need for all current uses of native forest timber (for construction, housing, transport and retail). We don't need to source hardwood from native forests - and it makes absolutely no sense to keep destroying this finite resource and continuing to unnecessarily causing severe and irreversible negative impacts (carbon emissions, habitat and environmental degradation etc). And we know it simply doesn't stack up economically.

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

Why is so much exported as wood chips? What a travesty. More of the harvested trees from plantations should be used as saw and veneer logs instead of being turned into wood chips. Australia's plantation forests already provide over 90% of our timber needs. There is no need to continue this wanton destruction of precious native forests - this is lazy and shortsighted. There should be no subsidising of the logging of public native forests. I certainly do not want my tax payer money being spent in this mindless and destructive way. Subsidies do even further damage by disincentivising the market away from the softwood plantation industry. Create a market that drives preservation of our dwindling native forests - don't continue to perpetuate the destruction of the little we have left.

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

I am so angry that the residents of NSW are being made to pay to subsidise this failing and unnecessary industry (to the tune of tens of millions of dollars) - which results in the loss of critical threatened species habitat and biodiversity. Shame on the NSW government and Forestry Corp. It makes no sense at all. These native forests are much more valuable left alone and unlogged - to the tourism economy of NSW, the liveability of regional towns, in carbon capture and storage, in improved air and water quality, and as ecological hubs.

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

Ending native forest logging is a no brainer. It is climate action - equivalent to removing hundreds of thousands of cars off the road per year. If we end native forest logging in NSW (a completely unnecessary industry) this will contribute significantly to meeting our targets - which we are already unlikely to meet at the current rate. (ie we need all the help we can get). Forests that haven't been logged are healthier and more resilient to climate change as they have functioning and complete ecosystems, they are also more resistant to the catastrophic fires like the ones we saw in 2019/2020. Over 3.6 million tonnes of carbon is released through native forest logging each year - bushfires that spread through recovering and thus less resilient forests only add to this... native forest logging is a destructive downward spiral and we need to do everything we can to address the climate crisis and the biodiversity and extinction crisis. Please stop this insane destruction of our precious native forests - they belong to us - the public and we want them protected.