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

The logging of both public and privately owned native forests in NSW is not sustainable. Many of these forests provide ever diminishing habitat for threatened species. Logging compromises the large old hollow bearing trees and diminishes food and shelter for pollen and leaf eating species. Logging of native forests increases the susceptibility of these forests to more frequent and more severe bushfires that further compromises the integrity of the forest to support wildlife. Additionally fires have now significantly reduced available timber for further harvesting with wildfires reducing the stock of timber that might have been available for harvesting decreasing availability timber for harvest. From a financial perspective the destruction of forests yields less than 10% of valuable saw logs with the balance of the harvested mass being left to rot or go to woodchip that could be provided from plantation sources. Additionally, this wasteful Forestry Corporation operation is propped up by the NSW taxpayer who subsidises Forestry Corp operation and pays fines levied by the EPA for numerous operational breaches. For all State Forests these are the forests of all who live in NSW and significant to the National estate.

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

The environmental values of un-logged intact native forests is invaluable to protecting the forest ecosystem that support plant diversity, water quality and animal species. The logging of native forests and mismanagement of the native forest estate no longer has public support and Forestry of native forests does not have a social contract to continue operations.

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

Demands for plantations on both public and private land. The more cost-effective management of plantations particularly on degraded public and private land, creates jobs for those transitioning the Native forest domain and provides higher yields than available from native forests to better meet demands for hardwood timber.

Recently Essential Energy who maintains significant power pole assets in regional NSW have announced the introduction of composite fibre poles and phasing out replacement and new poles from timber

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

Logging of native forests produces significant green house gas emissions and compromises the sequestration of carbon by removing large trees from the environment and releasing their stored carbon to the atmosphere. Additionally more frequent and more severe fires from logged forests releases further carbon to the atmosphere.

Public submission

As a bush regenerator on private land and in National Parks I have witnessed the loss of diversity in logged native forests. Lantana and other weeds fill the voids created by logging many of these weeds are highly invasive and without an intact forest ecosystem spread out of control.