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

Logging in native forests is not sustainable:

Logging native forests removes the older trees, removing cavity hollows and other habitat for forest wildlife, such as Micro bats, Native birds, Koalas, the Great Glider and other marsupials that depend on hollows for nesting. These trees take over 70 years to develop cavities and hollows. Regrowth will take another 70 years to develop new nesting sites assuming the trees are left alone. During that 70 years the native animals must compete for any remaining nesting sites. I have watched different species of birds fighting over one remaining old growth tree after an area of native forest is cleared.

Current levels of logging are not sustainable and result in the removal of protections for key habitat, and changes plant communities increasing the introduction of weed species.

Continued logging will likely contribute greatly to the extinction of forest dependent Wildlife that cannot move to new areas due to territorial pushback from other animals in nearby areas.

The 2019/20 fires have made this situation much more urgent and serious as huge areas of habitat were destroyed. It should be noted older taller trees are better able to avoid canopy fires due to the canopy being further away from the ground.

Regrowth forests being the same age and size are more prone to canopy fire damage.

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

Forests are vital refuges for many threatened species that rely on mature, intact forests with well-developed ecosystems.

Forests provide important services for the environment and regional communities, such as: Water quality and flow regulation, important for water quality, fishing and tourism. Recreational values for locals and visitors.

Cultural and spiritual significance, especially for indigenous communities.

Habitat connectivity, supporting biodiversity and ecosystem health.

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

Houses are built from steel, concrete, hempcrete, 3D printing and composite timber products.

There is no longer any need to log public native forests to build houses.

Forestry plantations can supply our high quality and composite timber products.

Sustainability involves shifting to plantation timber and supporting sustainable industry practices.

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

Hardwood and softwood plantations already provide 91% of Australia's log production.

Investment in hardwood plantation on already cleared land would supply timber products into the future.

Shifting to higher-value plantations can better meet timber needs.
Ending public forest subsidies would boost sustainable timber production on private lands.
There is also an opportunity to incentivize for planting on private land through offering carbon credits.

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

Healthy native forests provide essential water resources by holding up peak storm events through the canopy thus slowing rainfall events from reaching the ground, improving water infiltration rates, reducing surface overflow, and allowing the water to soak into the ground.

Protecting and restoring State Forests will increase the economic value through tourism, carbon storage, job creation and recreational opportunities.

The Forestry Corporation is currently financially unsustainable, relying on government support and yielding less timber compared to managed plantations. This business model should no longer be supported. Victoria and South Australia have closed their Forestry Corporations, NSW needs to do the same.

Diverse forest management, particularly Aboriginal models, can enhance the cultural and social value of forests through Management of Country, creating bush tucker products, bush chemicals and Eco tourism.

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 in native forests releases large amounts of sequestered carbon stored in the trees and soils contributing to climate change. It also reduces soil rainfall absorption, increases soil erosion, and surface runoff causing siltation of creeks and streams effecting the water quality of the streams.

Stopping logging allows forests to recover, helping them store more carbon and support climate goals while supporting and maintaining the fragile ecosystems including endangered species of that forest area.

Healthy forests are essential for reducing the impacts of climate change like wildfires and drought. Healthy forests have an impact on weather patterns due to tree transpiration from the canopy that cools the air, increases humidity creating microclimates.

By stopping logging, forests can play a large role in mitigating climate risks and supporting opportunities in carbon markets.

The massive clearing of the Amazon Basin in South America is an example of how forest clearing can alter the landscape changing rainfall patterns and trigger the collapse of ecosystems. Australia has less than 2% of Natural Forests left. When are we going to save what is left to allow our native animals to continue to exist.