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

Current forestry operations in NSW are both financially and environmentally unsustainable. It costs tax payers money to keep the industry running. There should be a moratorium on logging whilst this panel considers its future to prevent any further destruction of native forests. I do not see any future for native forest logging in NSW due to climate change and biodiversity crisis. Isolated protected areas are not enough. Logging must cease in all state forests across NSW. An immediate moratorium on logging in areas of high density Koala and Greater Glider populations must be implemented while the panel process is underway. There is and will be a continued need for well managed, plantation forests for quality wood products, but not exporting of wood chips - accounting for 50% of logs from native forest in 2023.

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

I think there is almost no need to comment on the immeasurable cultural and environmental values of forests in the mid north coast of NSW where I live. Clearly the panel knows this. It hardly requires experts to spell it out. The local Gumbaynggirr people and all of us suffer hugely from the destruction happening, destruction of land and destruction of biodiversity. Logging increases wildfires, destroys habitat, exacerbates climate change and degrades rivers and our marine national park through erosion and runoff.

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

The market and demand for native forests is declining rapidly, as evidenced by for example Essential energy no longer using native timber poles. There will always be a need for timber but not native forest timber. Sawn and treated softwood logs and composite timber products made from softwoods can substitute for all current uses for native forest and plantation hardwoods. In addition housing could use alternatives to timber framing as could commercial construction. Increasingly recycled plastic products can be used for things like decking. Logging in native forests accounted for only 9% of the total log production in Australia in the year 2023. Native forest logging contributes only 2.4 million of the total 25 million cubic metres for that year. Half of the logs taken from native forests in 2023 were turned into woodchip and exported. 87% of hardwood plantation logs were exported as wood chips. Hardwood sourced from native forests or plantations are no longer necessary for any of the uses identified in this section. High end furniture products from native hardwood could be managed under strict conditions, which could provide an alternative to poor quality imports and build a small, high-end industry.

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

Plantations already provide 91% of Australia's log production. A higher proportion of harvested logs from plantations should be prioritised as saw and veneer logs, rather than exporting them as

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wood chips. Subsidising the logging of public native forests by the Forestry Corporation is non-competitive and distorts the market away from the more profitable softwood plantation industry. High-end and luxury native hardwood products should only be selectively harvested on private land and under strict conditions

**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**

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Personally I believe that State Forests as an organisation has lost all social licence to operate. There needs to be a moratorium whilst this panel considers a whole new way to approach this, in consultation with communities particularly local Aboriginal communities whose land it is. I believe there are great opportunities for our forests to become stunning, globally known tourist locations. There are fewer and fewer places left on the planet that have areas like our forests. But their main value lies not in any monetary sense but in their environmental value which as we face climate change and biodiversity loss is also a massive social value - without these forests and their associated biodiversity we do not have a future. First Nations designed reserves that value Traditional Custodians' self-determination and cultural knowledge and exclude all industrial extractive activity should replace 'state forest' land categories and protect forests in an enduring way.

**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**

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No, I do not support using forests in a market-based model for carbon or biodiversity offsetting. It needs to be understood that they have inherent value to mankind which is not tied to economic value. Biodiversity offsetting has been totally discredited, there is no nett gain to biodiversity. Forests have inherent value. Forests that have not been logged are more resilient to the changing climate and catastrophic fires that are occurring as a consequence. Logging of forests is increasing risks associated with climate change like wildfires and native forest logging in NSW is estimated to release 3.6 million tonnes of carbon every year - carbon which should be left in the forests to combat climate change and the extinction crisis.