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

In NSW, forestry practices are economically unsustainable. Yields are decreasing, harvest estimates are frequently inflated, and both biomass and carbon storage are diminished. Over 147 species depend on tree hollows and similar habitats for survival. Waterway health and quality are negatively impacted, while the risk and severity of fires are on the rise.

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

Healthy, mature forests purify the air, produce rainfall, and help cool the environment. They are essential for pollinators and contribute significantly to pollination across landscapes, both within and beyond forested areas. Additionally, 150 threatened species in NSW are directly affected by the logging of native forests. This practice also disrupts numerous ecosystems and habitats across the state, impacting 269 species that are listed as nationally threatened.

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

For 150 years, the forestry industry had the opportunity to create a sustainable timber production system, but they have failed. Instead of building a circular, sustainable model, they have focused on resource extraction, resulting in the destruction of invaluable and irreplaceable natural ecosystems. The current approach is unsustainable and harmful. In 2023, half of the logs taken from native forests were converted into woodchips and exported, with 87% of hardwood plantation logs also being exported as woodchips. The market for native forest products is rapidly shrinking and should be further discouraged.

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

Plantations already account for 91% of Australia's log production, yet the government's subsidies for logging public native forests through the Forestry Corporation undermine competition. This skews the market away from the more profitable softwood plantation industry.

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

Native forests provide significant benefits to both the ecology and economy of NSW, from improving water quality in reservoirs to boosting tourism opportunities, as well as storing and reducing carbon emissions. Healthy, productive ecosystems benefit the entire planet. It is unreasonable for the people of NSW to be paying millions of dollars to destroy the state's biodiversity and the vital habitats of threatened species. The native forest hardwood division of the Forestry Corporation operates at a loss amounting to tens of millions of dollars, which is simply neither economically nor environmentally viable.

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

It is estimated that logging native forests in NSW releases 3.6 million tonnes of carbon annually. Stopping native forest logging would be comparable to taking 840,000 cars off the road each year, with immediate positive effects. Halting this practice would also allow previously logged forests to recover their lost carbon, significantly aiding in meeting our emissions targets. Additionally, stopping logging would reduce the heightened fire risks, as unlogged forests are more resilient to climate change and catastrophic fires, whereas logging increases fire dangers.