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

The NSW forestry operations are sustainable and will continue to be sustainable with current regulations providing the footprint of the public native forest estate does not continue to diminish.

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

Active forestry management is important for all types of forest health and when combined with fire mitigation promotes biodiversity. Unmanaged forests are also a problem with high intensity bushfires, weeds and pests that adversely impact farming communities. Aboriginal cultural heritage values are protected and balanced so that everyone benefits not only from timber products but access to free recreational activities. My large family would spend lots of time in the state forests, especially the kids were young. We would visit for picnics; could light a fire, camp, bushwalk and take our dog for a walk that we couldn't do in the National Parks. We are unable to access many of the areas we used to visit as they have now been converted to National Parks. Road access has been blocked and there is restricted access. We have too many unmanaged forests that have been set aside as National Parks and Reserves. The experience of the recent bushfires in 2019-2020 should have been the pinnacle of recognizing public policy failure. Old growth forests that were once productive forests for timber harvesting are valuable for biodiversity because they were actively and responsibly managed by Forestry.

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

We all use timber products - they are everywhere, and wood fiber is widely used in lots of products. My home is made from timber including floors, outdoor verandah, ramp and stairs. All outdoor construction materials are made from hardwood timber as I live in an area with a high fire risk. I use local sawmill offcuts as firewood for our heating in winter. I need hardwood fencing for my rural property along with the wood power poles that deliver the electricity. Wood is natural, easy to process, easy to recycle with minimal waste. It is my preferred choice as a renewable, sustainable and recyclable resource material.

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

We need softwood plantations and some hardwood plantations for timber. Private native forestry isn't easy. Lots of friends have had difficulty with not having suitable timbers for harvesting; access too difficult; too difficult to get approvals and some have had trouble with their 'green' neighbours who oppose harvesting on their private property.

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

State forests are for everyone and balanced for all of their uses. The Forestry Commission/Forest Corp have played an important role in balancing the needs for everyone over the last 100 years. The widespread clearing on coastal communities to accommodate population growth is the problem with loss of habitat and increase of endangered species. Not many people understand the important work they do and hardly anyone knows the difference between a National Park or a state forest until they are made aware of the restrictions in National Parks and can't access the areas they used to visit.

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

Trees store carbon. Trees that are harvested continue to store carbon in the timber products. Trees that are regrown increase the carbon absorption with the new growth. Forestry is the answer for carbon benefits and our need for resources.