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

It is a reality that there's a necessity for timber and particularly hardwood for housing in Australia. As NSW and Australia at large is in the grip of a housing crisis it is necessary for forestry to not just continue, but to increase and the sustainable harvesting of timber is a far more wise use of timber than ceasing forestry here and importing it from nations in South East Asia and Oceania where there are very few environmental controls. As Australians we have an ethical responsibility to ensure the timber we use is harvested in a sustainable manner and by ceasing forestry in NSW we export the environmental problem and avoid our responsibilities. This is reprehensible. It is vital, not just because of need and cost that we make forestry efficient and sustainable in NSW, it's vital because we need not to destroy the ecology of other developing nations when virtue signalling about our own forests.

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

It is a undeniable fact borne out by tens of thousands of human history that the practise of hunting and fishing in forest environments is not just an Aboriginal cultural heritage, but indeed a culture in all races and ethnicities who have come to live in Australia. Not only does cultural hunting fill a basic need common to all humans, it is also an invaluable tool for control of feral and introduced species and the preservation and establishment of safe environments for native species. The discovery of the long-footed potoroo in Bondi State forest last year demonstrated that a heavily hunted and continuously harvested forest can provide a tremendous environment for threatened species as compared to National Parks which have a disgraceful track record of management, hosting feral animals and weed plant species and being a terrible corridor for the spread of bushfire. Accordingly the use of forests by licensed conservation hunters is integral to the best practise management plan of any land.

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

NSW and Australia are currently in the grip of a housing crisis. Timber is needed to overcome this problem and importing timber adds to the cost and to constantly shrinking rainforests in south east Asia and Oceania where the rigorous environmental regulations and legislation we have either does not exist or is not enforced. NSW needs timber and we are abrogating our responsibility if we halt forestry here and import timber from the developing nations near us. Timber, particularly hardwood, is needed for mining as well.

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

NSW can sustainably use softwood and hardwood plantations to supply our housing, mining, transport and retail industries through selective harvesting and forestry management plans including cultural conservation hunting, four wheel driving and fishing to help keep tabs on the

forest, keep tracks open and control pest species to provide a safe environment for native animals. This second and only logical path will allow us to manage the immense asset that forestry brings to our state yearly.

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

Recent studies by psychologists have found that there is undeniable proof that time spent in forests is invaluable for human beings. In a paper in 2022 Dr Simone Webber addressed the Japanese of 'Shirin-yoku' or 'Forest bathing.' As she describes 'it involves immersing your senses in the sights, sounds, scents and feel of woodlands' and draws on the concept of biophilia, encouraging humans to preserve ecosystems. Hunting specifically involves setting aside modern, urban and technology based life and focusing on the forest around hunters, through walking, spotting, tracking and identifying different aspects of fauna and flora in the pursuit of game. It is, in its most primal form, immersing oneself in nature. In this way the management of pest and introduced species has a massive contribution to wellness, mindfulness and resilience of the community past the obvious advantages of environmental preservation, native species protection and meat harvesting.

Hunters also bring a unique financial injection to rural and regional communities when travelling to state forests to hunt, in the form of fuel, food, groceries and accomodation. Last year it was \$500 million and it promises to be more by the end of 2024.

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

While scientists are entirely unable to inform the public what is needed to decrease the global temperature by even 0.5° Celsius the idea that selective timber harvesting will contribute to climate change is absolutely ludicrous. Australians have been harvesting timber for centuries and at times in our history it was entirely unregulated. At a time when it's more regulated than it has ever been it presents no threat to climate change.