

NAME REDACTED

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

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Forestry operations taking place in native forests are currently not sustainable, and have no prospects of future sustainability. They are generating fundamental declines in species and since 2010, the yields from public native forests has declined by 40 per cent.

Native forest logging takes place in areas of high conservation value with endangered and critically endangered species. It removes old and mature trees with hollows which are essential as nests and dens of up to 174 species. It changes the composition and nature of native forests, making them more flammable in a climate that will continue to become drier and hotter.

It reduces the function and health of waterways, creates erosion and water way pollution. It reduces carbon storage and biomass. The logging of native forests in NSW should be stopped as soon as possible.

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

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There has long been considerable scientific evidence supporting the environmental value of NSW's public native forests. It is clear that the native forests have significant cultural heritage values for NSW's Aboriginal communities.

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

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High value timber products are being sourced, and should be sourced from the plantation sector, not native forests. It is shocking and ghastly that native forests in NSW are being logged for pulp and wood chips, despite all of their ecological values and importance to the community. These are low value products and there is significant evidence that native forest logging generates low value products. The NSW state government should promptly invest in plantation sector so that all timber products can be sourced from plantations, as is the case in South Australia and New Zealand.

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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**

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Future timber supply needs should be generated entirely by softwood and hardwood plantations. The plantation sector is responsible for more jobs, is more profitable, produce wood crops faster and generate less greenhouse gas emissions. Areas of NSW native forest should not be converted to plantations.

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**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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NSW's native forests have substantial ecological values. These include being the home for numerous species, and playing an essential role in water storage and the generation of water for

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communities as well as for agriculture, tourism and fisheries. They are important stores of carbon and are critical for NSW and Australia meeting its greenhouse gas emission targets, which NSW and Australia are currently not on target to meet. Logging of native forests damages and degrades these values. There is no evidence that "thinning" native forests through logging makes them less susceptible to bush fires. Instead the evidence from scientists such as Prof Zylestra is that logged forests makes them more susceptible to more frequent and intense fires. There is also no evidence to apply "forest gardening" as part of management of native forests. The best, and easiest way to protect the many important environmental and cultural values and contributions of NSW's native forests is to not log them.

**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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NSW's native forests are important stores of carbon and are critical to the reduction of NSW greenhouse gas emissions. There is evidence that ending logging of Australian native forests is a key to Australia achieving its 2030 targets. The previous reduction in native forest logging in Tasmania was one of the reasons for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in that state (and was acknowledged as such by the Cth Department of climate change, environment, energy and water for example). The biodiversity benefits in NSW native forests are well documented and established by scientific research. The best way to maintain these carbon and biodiversity benefits is to cease logging of NSW native forests as soon as possible.