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

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Our world is dying. Step by step, the world, the land that we live in is being chopped down and used as scrap. Our native forests are becoming wood chip, mulch and used for land development. It isn't sustainable. It isn't right, it isn't fair. Everyday, there are animals losing their habitats and homes, being slaughtered or left vulnerable. Our native forests are homes to 174 different species of animals. As a collective, as a culture, it should Australia's duty to preserve the beautiful land we reside in, and respect it the best of our ability.

Destroying native forests also increases fire risks, which not only threatens native ecosystems but ourselves. In the Black Summer, my parents came within kilometres of losing their home. They own horses and dogs, cats and chickens. They would have been able to save them all. Saving native forests isn't about just saving ecosystems, but also ourselves.

I think that the continuous logging of native forests indicates that lawmakers don't care about the people they are supposed to represent. They don't care about rural communities and the risks that we face. They live in their cities and make laws for people with no conception of the impact they have.

Life is about more than money. Or at the very least, it should be.

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

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The logging of native forests is not only unwise, but disrespectful. Native land is just that, native, and that is how it should remain. It doesn't belong to us. These forests are critical for indigenous culture, and every step towards removing them just reveals more of the rotten heart of racism that exists in the heart of our country.

In Australian native forests, there are 269 nationally listed endangered plant species that are constantly compromised and destroyed by Australia's approach to logging. Habitats and ecosystems are being destroyed, and the world is being worsened by it. Native forests clear the air, cool the country and help produce rainfall, that is of a vital nature to a country so plagued by bushfires and drought. This is especially important in rural communities.

Logging of native forests is not only disrespectful to indigenous communities, but stupid.

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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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The main use of native logging is the production of woodchip, which is then exported. This contributes minimally to Australia's economy. Logging in native forests contributes approximately 9% of Australia's logging and timber industry. This leaves me wondering why such a small amount of contribution, is worth the destruction and devastation it is causing.

The demand in the market for native logging is rapidly dwindling. Why are we still butchering our native forests, and ruining our ecosystem, and contributing to climate change?

Why are we destroying our beautiful country for a dying industry, if not to fill the pockets of the greedy who don't care for the lives they are destroying.

#### **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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The mass destruction of native forests is unproductive. The future of the softwood and hardwood plantations do not rely on the continuation of native forest logging. Timber plantations already contribute to 91% of Australia's timber production, with most of the native logging timber being turned into woodchips and mulch. Why is mulch worth the destruction of our native habitats. The subsidisation of the native forest logging by the Forestry Corporation is a non-competitive industry and is pulling the market away from the much more profitable and sustainable softwood plantation industry.

Stop killing koalas for woodchip.

#### **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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Native forests cover approximately 2 million hectares of Australia's land. We cannot afford to lose any more. These native forests have a massive impact on their local towns, environments, rivers and water reservoirs. They hold a vital part in many communities, and the loss of these forests can lead to terrible circumstances.

Not to mention, that the native logging industry runs at a loss of tens of millions of dollars every year. Why are we continuing a destructive industry and nets us nothing but devastation to the NSW public, not to mention the impact that it has on tourism, one of Australia's biggest profit industries.

Native forests have a much greater and more positive impact when they are allowed to keep growing, rather than cut down to fuel individual's greed, at the expense of the collective good.

#### **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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Native logging contributes to climate change greatly. It is estimated to release 3.6 million tonnes of carbon a year through native logging alone. Banning the logging of native forests would be the equivalent of removing 850 cars from our roads every year.

Why does the government tell us to drive our cars less, when we have no other option for travel, especially in rural communities, while they turn a blind eye to the active destruction of our country and native landscape?

The bushfires are becoming an increasingly large risk every year, and native logging actively contributes the increase of this threat.

Why do we have to burn for the profit of corporations? Why is our government, our elected representatives, more than comfortable with watching their rural communities go up in smoke for the profit of the few?

What else are they going to burn us for? How much are the lives of your citizens, your native animals, your rural communities worth?