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

I am deeply concerned that in NSW we are not adequately protecting the precious native forests that were not badly impacted by the 2019 bushfires. The remaining habitat in state forests that has been measured to provide for threatened species should be left intact.

I'm calling for an immediate moratorium on logging in Bulga State - there are inadequate protections for endangered species, including koalas and greater gliders who are known to live in the areas being logged.

Forests are worth much more to the people of NSW and the world if they are left standing: they sequester carbon, retain water, home incredible threatened species, and provide a base for tourism activities.

We need to end logging native forests and a start timely transition for forest workers immediately.

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

Too huge to list here. It's well known that the native forests of NSW are incredibly rich in biodiversity and cultural heritage.

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

This demand can be met by plantation timber and better recycling/reuse/avoidance in the retail space. I'm deeply concerned by native forest logging creating wood chips.

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

Plantations should be managed with the greatest sustainability principles enacted. We need to end logging native forests and start a timely transition for forest workers.

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 Forestry needs to stop logging native forests and utilise other forestry management tools for biodiversity, work with traditional custodians to undertake cool cultural burns, and be funded and celebrated to be stewards of the incredible native forest estate, not subsidised to log and destroy native forest habitat.

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

Forests are an incredible carbon sink, but protecting forests should not come about by giving a carbon credit pass to major polluters to keep on polluting and call themselves 'neutral', particularly when we know we need their emissions actually need to come down. Forest carbon storage is not necessarily permanent and is not equivalent to the fossil carbon from the burning of a geological fossil fuel. Think about the bushfires of 2019.

Governments have and can continue to value forests and to fund their protection and ongoing management for biodiversity without the need to rely on a carbon credit system. Governments can make decisions to use revenue to fund things for the public good.

Bear with me for this clunky analogy to make my point: Imagine if we were told the only way the government would build hospitals was by asking corporations that damage health and kill people to volunteer to put money into a hospital fund and then the corporation can say it's 'health neutral'. How would you know it was like for like? Why would killer corporations get to look good while filling the hospitals with sick people? Would enough corporations buy 'health credits' to make it work? What if there was a better way to actually put in place laws to prohibit corporations making people sick and killing people, and to use revenue from taxing profitable corporations to fund public hospitals?

I implore the government to stop subsidising State Forest Corporation to decimate public forests, and instead fund workers to protect and improve the biodiversity rich native forests of NSW.