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

Current native forest logging practices are unsustainable given that less than 10% ends up as timber, 25% as paper products and more than 50% burnt or left as debris on site. Native forests have more value being left as habitat and as a carbon sink.

Native forest logging reduces biomass and carbon storage, and removing mature trees takes away valuable food sources and hollow bearing trees.

Mature trees are vital for native fauna such as koalas and gliders. Protections for mature trees were removed in 2018 and logging was intensified to try and get more wood from native forests. More than 150 species in NSW rely on hollows for dens and nests, logging reduces the number of hollows that will be created in native forests.

Native forest logging increases fire threat and intensity, erosion and water way pollution, and the penetration of weeds and other invasive species.

Native forest logging reduces the function and health of waterways, including streams and rivers.

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

Native forests provide recreation and improved health outcomes to locals and visitors alike and are a source of community pride and connection to place

Native forests hold significant cultural and spiritual value for First Nations people

First Nations people and communities have ongoing connection to native forests and forest landscapes are an integral part of cultural practice and knowledge

There are 269 nationally listed threatened species in NSW and the landscape scale significance of native forests means that native forest logging compromises many ecosystems and habitats throughout NSW

Mature and unlogged native forests are critical for pollinators and play a key role in pollination across the landscape, both inside and outside of forests

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

Half of the logs taken from native forests in 2023 were turned into woodchip and exported
Logging in native forests accounted for less than 10% of the total log production in Australia in the year 2023. Native forest logging contributed only 2.4 million of the total 25 million cubic metres for that year

Sawn and treated softwood logs and composite timber products made from softwoods can substitute for all current uses for native forest and plantation hardwood

The market and demand for native forests is declining rapidly, the recent example of Essential Energy moving away from power poles harvested from native forests is just one example

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

Plantations currently provide 91% of Australia's log production

A higher proportion of harvested logs from plantations should be prioritised as saw and veneer logs, rather than exporting them as wood chips

Subsidising the logging of public native forests by the Forestry Corporation is non-competitive and distorts the market away from the more profitable softwood plantation industry

High-end native hardwood products should only be selectively harvested on private land and under strict conditions

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

The native forest hardwood division of the Forestry Corporation operates at a loss that runs into tens of millions of dollars, at the expense of the NSW public. It also additionally receives tens of millions of dollars in regular equity injections. The people of NSW should not be paying millions of dollars to destroy the biodiversity of our own state and critical habitat for threatened species. Native forests that are not logged have real and tangible benefits to the entire ecology and economy of NSW.

Native state forests cover an area of 2 million hectares in NSW and impact on a diverse set of living conditions for many towns, from water quality in reservoirs, to greater tourism industry opportunities, and carbon storage and abatement.

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

Climate change is driving increased risks for forest health and continued logging in native forests is exacerbating that risk.

Forests that have not been logged are more resilient to the changing climate and catastrophic fires that are occurring as a consequence.

Logging in a native forest reduces the amount of stored carbon by more than half of the original value.

Ending native forest logging will allow previously logged forests to regain lost carbon and make a significant contribution to meeting our emissions targets.

Native forest logging in NSW is estimated to release 3.6 million tonnes of carbon every year.

Ending native forest logging would be the equivalent to removing 840 thousand cars from the roads per year.