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

Native forest logging is not sustainable neither economically nor environmentally. It's removing old growth trees which are key habitat for threatened species like koalas, gliders and powerful owls amongst others.

The 2019 bushfires have greatly impacted biodiversity, protecting remaining native forests is critical.

Native forests logging is also a loss making activity subsidised by taxpayers.

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

Forests are a great place to hike and reconnect with nature, they provide shade and help to cool the climate. They protect against flooding by slowing the absorption of water and help filter and clean water.

They provide invaluable habitat for threatened species such as gliders and koalas. Areas where these two species live is being logged at the higher rate than others forests. These places need to be properly protected.

A great part of the planned Great Koala National Park is being logged, this should be stopped as soon as possible to protect these species

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

90% of Australia's timber needs is provided by timber from plantations.

Forest native logging is mainly used for low value products such as wood chips and exports

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

Sustainable to higher value plantations on already cleared private land would provide better timber production

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 true value of our native forests does not come from wood production, but from their critical role in carbon storage, the water cycle, providing critical habitat, reducing fire risk, recreation and spiritual connection.

NSW logging is currently subsidised by the taxpayer and makes an economic loss.

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

Markets do not make the value that forests play to fight the biodiversity and climate crisis. They are valuable on their own by all the environmental services they provide.

Government should invest in Nature as a climate risk mitigation and adaptation with or without markets.

Offsets are often used as an easy way out for corporations to continue emitting instead of reducing emissions.

Offsets are not like for like either, removing old growth forests and offsetting them with new trees doesn't provide the same value for biodiversity and climate change mitigation.

Waiting for markets arrangements to be finalised before finally opening the Great National Koala Park further allows the logging and destruction of their habitat.

Carbon emissions need be priced at an increased predictable rate to give proper market signals for companies to actively decarbonise their activities. Relying on voluntary markets will not provide the emissions reductions at the rate matching the urgency of the climate crisis.