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

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We lost millions of habitat during the black summer bushfires and allowing forestry operations is so unethical for the future of forest- currently they are removing the old growth trees. Old growth trees are so valuable as they house hollows for birds and greater gliders.

Koalas are currently listed as threatened on the fast track for extinction- and the NSW government currently logs in areas set aside for the great koala national park, as well as the beautiful Bulga forest.

Australia is a signatory to many international conservation goals. For instance, the Global Biodiversity Framework aims to 'ensure urgent management actions to halt human-induced extinction of known threatened species and for the recovery and conservation of species'. The Glasgow Leaders' Declaration committed us to halt and reverse deforestation by 2030. Continue to log native forests make a mockery of this.

Forestry corp is operating at a loss and receives millions in subsidies. A Frontier Economics report shows that the state-owned corporation had received tax payer funded grants worth \$246.9m since the 2019//20 financial year and operated with a loss of \$28.2m in the same period.

(Reference: <https://michaelwest.com.au/nsw-forestry-corporation-is-losing-money-risking-the-environment-yet-logging-continues>)

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

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During covid, millions of Australians started to travel within their locality and get into hiking and nature. There is so much value in a forest tourist wide- the evidence to show this is the Blue Mts area which receives millions of visits every year. So many people want to hike in wild places as there are few areas in the world left to do this.

This is the value of forests- and the science backs the benefits up for our mental health, for increases to our immunity, decreases to our stress hormones cortisol.

Threatened species rely on mature intact forests. When we start logging and or destroying vital habitat for housing, kangaroos and koalas are more vulnerable to car strikes as they end up with no habitat left and are forced onto roads, up power poles or coming into contact with humanity to their peril.

A published article (By Michelle Ward, Griffith University; David Lindenmayer, Australian National University, and James Watson, The University of Queensland) found continued logging is having impacts on 150 threatened species.

Forty-three of these species now have 50% or less of their intact habitat remaining in NSW. They include the three brothers wattle, regent parrot and growling grass frog. Two species, Sloane's froglet and Glenugie karaka, have less than 10% of intact habitat remaining. Reference: <https://science.anu.edu.au/news-events/news/more-half-nsws-forests-and-woodlands-are-gone-ongoing-logging-increases-extinction>

I do not want to live in a world where we have our beautiful animals like koalas in zoos as there is no habitat left.

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There is also the important and often undervalued consideration of the cultural heritage values of forests- the animals within are their totems and forests are places of songlines and connection to country.

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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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We do not need to log forests to build houses.

The products of logging are woodchips, pallets and or pallets. Plantation forests already can supply high quality and composite timber products

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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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Hardwood and softwood plantations already provide 91% of Australia's log production.

- Investment in hardwood plantation on already cleared land would supply timber products into the future

- Shifting to higher-value plantations can better meet timber needs.

- Ending public forest subsidies would boost sustainable timber production on private lands.

#### **PLANTATIONS COULD PROVIDE ENOUGH HARDWOOD TIMBER**

Around 85% of eucalypt plantations are used for paper and cardboard and are harvested on short 10 to 20-year rotations. If these plantations were grown for 25 years or longer and managed appropriately, they could produce sawn timber suitable for building. Allowing eucalypt plantations to grow longer would not only allow them to absorb more carbon, but would yield a more valuable product that would store carbon long-term. Reference: NSW Forest Carbon An Effective Climate Change Solution

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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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Forestry Corp is financially running at a loss supported by the state government. Last year it operated at a \$20 million dollar loss!!! As a taxpayer that money could be spent in so many other sustainable ways.

Healthy native forests provide essential water resources.

Protecting and restoring State Forests will increase the economic value through tourism, carbon storage, job creation and recreational opportunities

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### **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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1. NSW Forest Carbon- An Effective Climate Change Solution shows that massive damage that logging native forests causes to the environment in regards to carbon emissions: "Research conducted for this report found that greenhouse gas emissions from native forest logging in New South Wales is approximately 3.6 million tonnes of carbon (CO<sub>2</sub>) per year. This shows that native forest logging in New South Wales is a significant source of emissions. It has the same annual emissions as 840,000 medium sized cars or is close to four and a half times the annual emissions of New South Wales' domestic aviation.

The report also found that:-

Protecting New South Wales' native forests is a real climate solution. If native forests currently managed for logging were protected, we could prevent 76

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million tonnes of carbon (CO<sub>2</sub>) from entering the atmosphere by 2050. This could provide close to \$2.7 billion in benefit to help mitigate climate change.

Our smartest choice would be to protect New South Wales' native forests - this will prevent significant emissions and allow forests to continue to draw carbon down from the atmosphere.