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

The current logging operations of Forestry Corporation NSW are not sustainable. Industrial logging post bushfires of 2018-2020 should stop immediately. Koala habitat vital to endangered species is being clearfelled. Old growth habitat trees are being destroyed taking valuable nesting places away from endangered species like the Greater Glider. These habitat trees can take up to a hundred years to produce hollows. This is not sustainable.

Areas of plantation forest being clearfelled are vital koala habitat forests. These forests will become monoculture blackbutt forests, converting regrowth native forest to single species forests not suitable for Koalas and other species who need diverse forest vegetation.

Stop logging these forests in this unsustainable industrial logging operation.

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

The forests of the mid north coast of NSW are vestiges of diverse habitats for threatened and endangered species. The Koala, Greater Glider, Yellow bellied Glider, Giant Barred Frog, Moonee Quassia are just some of the species being impacted by industrial scale logging. Their survival depends on the forests connectivity and diversity.

The value to the people of NSW and visitors is immense providing tourism, mental health and health benefits to bike riders, campers and walkers.

Gumbaynggirr cultural heritage sites are everywhere in these forests. These areas must be protected and managed by Gumbaynggirr people.

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

Timber demand is being taken over by demand for timber alternatives such as composite materials. The recent electrical company switch to composite power poles shows how demand is diminishing. New houses being built in the Coffs area have metal frames not timber frames. The timber industry must restructure itself to this decrease in demand and re-skill its workforce to manage and protect these forests not destroy them.

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

Hardwood plantations in the footprint of the Great Koala National Park are predominantly native diverse forests. Citizen scientists and digital mapping show large tracks of remaining forest in these plantations. All logging of these forests must end and these plantation forests must be included in the GKNP to create landscape connectivity for species survival.

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 Forests are forests for the people not just for the timber industry to do what they please. These public forests must be returned to the people for recreation and tourism and habitat regeneration for carbon sequestration and water quality and flood and fire mitigation. Indigenous led management must be a priority in managing these vast tracks of land.

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

Logging forests has led to more fire prone forest landscapes by drying out the forest and reducing canopy cover and increasing weed species.

Carbon credits should not be used as a way to log one area if forest and then replace that area with a lesser value forest.

Climate change strategies demand we retain as much forest cover as we can to mitigate carbon release in logging and burning trees.