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

Logging native forests removes the older trees, getting rid of hollows and other habitat for forest wildlife, such as the Koala and the Great Glider. Current levels of logging are not sustainable and result in the removal of protections for key habitat.

- Continued logging will likely contribute greatly to the extinction of forest dependent wildlife. The 2019/20 fires have made this situation much more urgent and serious.

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

Forests are vital refuges for many threatened species that rely on mature, intact forests

- Forests provide important services for the environment and regional communities, such as:
 - o Water quality and flow regulation, important for water quality, fishing and tourism.
 - o Recreational values for locals and visitors.
 - o Cultural and spiritual significance, especially for indigenous communities.
 - o Habitat connectivity, supporting biodiversity and ecosystem health.

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

There is no longer any need to log public native forests to build houses.

- Plantations can supply our high quality and composite timber products
- Shifting to plantation timber reduces pressure on native forests, supporting sustainable industry practices

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

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

- Investment in hardwood plantations 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.

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

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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- The Forestry Corporation is currently financially unsustainable, relying on government support and yielding less timber compared to managed plantations.
 - Diverse forest management, particularly Aboriginal models, can enhance the cultural and social value of forests.

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 in native forests releases large amounts of carbon, contributing to climate change.

- Stopping logging allows forests to recover, helping them store more carbon and support climate goals.
- Healthy forests are essential for reducing the impacts of climate change like wildfires and drought.
- By stopping logging, forests can play a large role in mitigating climate risks and supporting opportunities in carbon markets.

To whom it may concern from the Forestry Industry Action Panel,

Thankyou for allowing the public to make a submission in regards to our thoughts on NSW forest legislation in line with public concern and allowing us to have a voice.

My name is Olivia. I am 23 years old, a science student at the [REDACTED], and currently reside in [REDACTED], NSW. I have been a strong advocate for the protection of forests around Australia ever since I became a volunteer with the Wilderness Society 2 years ago. I am the team leader for my group, and I have been really invested in our current campaigns and have loved hearing the voices of my fellow constituents through the outreach work we have done. A highlight for us was organising a film screening in my previous electorate, [REDACTED], earlier this year, to which we aimed to gather a community of concerned individuals who care deeply about community rights in environmental decision making. Some of the conversations and emotions shared were really powerful, and still resonate with me all these months later.

My deep concern for forest protection was ignited back in middle school. I lived in Brisbane at the time. I found out about a proposal to clear land for a development project, around a squash court next door to me. There were these huge native trees that surrounded the court, for sure over 100 years old judging by the circumference of the trees. When I found out, I felt like I needed to act quickly. I emailed and phoned the local council, but I remember them stating that there was nothing I could do to stop it as the proposal was already confirmed. I remember looking outside my bedroom window a week or so later and seeing the first tree fall next door. It upset me deeply, because I saw it with my own eyes.

Over the last 20 years, this area has seen widespread logging, and many native species of flora and fauna, especially koalas, have disappeared along with most of their habitat. The limited protection of koala habitat (koala hubs in the Great Koala National Park only guaranteeing safety to 1/3 of the total known koala population in the park).

This is one piece of the extensive amount of evidence supplied by the NSW parliamentary inquiry into koala populations and habitat. It found that koalas will be extinct in NSW without urgent intervention to protect habitat. We've already lost 54% of the forests and woodlands that were here prior to colonisation. Research shows that further logging is forcing the koala and many other species into an extinction vortex.

I am frustrated and deeply saddened that the situation is not being dealt with. I expect this review to result in serious action, including a decision to call for an immediate suspension and subsequent transition out of old growth native forest logging in NSW.

I appreciate your time in considering my submission.

With thanks and gratitude,
Olivia Hadley