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

Native forest logging is not sustainable. It destroys habitat. It reduces the amount of carbon sequestration that forests can do for us increasing the dangers of rampant climate change. One of the most important things we can do for a sustainable future is protect what is left of native forests.

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

150 threatened species are directly affected by logging native forests in NSW. What is left of forests and the species dependant on them is critically important to First Nations Peoples: to the maintenance of their cultural practices and the survival of their skills, knowledge and heritage.

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

Logging in native forests accounted for only 9% of total log production in NSW in 2023. Half of the logs taken from native forests in 2023 were turned into woodchip and exported. The market and demand for native forest logs is declining rapidly, the recent example of Essential Energy moving away from power poles harvested from native forests is just one example.

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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

Plantations already 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.

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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

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. First Nations Ranger Programs have been hugely successful at managing the recovery and health of native forests. Programs like the Githabul Rangers have shown how First Nations knowledge and management can restore the natural and critical function of forests in the landscape.

**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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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.

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 the catastrophic fires that are occurring as a consequence.