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

I believe the logging native forest is unsustainable financially and ecologically. It is time to end the huge subsidies that underpin current forestry operations that cause the ongoing destruction of increasingly marginal and at risk habitat for hundreds of often at risk species of animals and that increases fire threat and intensity

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

Forests are an integral part on maintaining clean waters, regulating the climate, and providing essential habitat for the 260 listed threatened forest species. They have been managed by Traditional owners of the land for thousands of years and provide these unique conservation and cultural values that are eroded significantly by current forestry operations.

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

The woodchip and pallet industry is the largest beneficiary of logging native forests. These industries should not be benefiting from the large subsidies current forestry operations receive. Hardwood for housing and construction could easily be sourced or replaced from alternative plantation sources.

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. The proportion of saw and veneer logs obtained from hardwood plantations needs to be increased, rather than being exported as woodchips. Without competition from subsidised public forests there will be an increased incentive for selective logging of speciality purpose hardwoods from private forests.

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

There are 2 million hectares of State Forests in NSW that provide water for numerous town reservoirs, have the potential to contribute to increased tourism, and take-up and store carbon. All these real economic benefits will improve if logging is stopped. In 2023 Forestry Corporation lost \$15 million on their hardwood operations, that's a cost of \$1,281 for each hectare logged. This is despite being paid \$31 million for their community service obligations that year, and obtaining tens of millions in regular equity injections. We should not be paying to degrade forests and log the homes of threatened species. Public forests are of greater economic benefit for water yields, tourism and carbon storage than they are for logging. It is in the best interest of taxpayers to stop logging of public native 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

Native forest logging in NSW releases 3.6 million tonnes of carbon (CO₂e) per year, which is equivalent to the annual emissions of 840,000 cars. The volume of carbon stored in logged forests has been more than halved. Stopping logging will enable forests to regain their lost carbon and make a significant contribution to meeting our climate targets. As shown by the 2019/20 wildfires, increasing droughts and fires due to climate heating are already having a significant impact on trees, forest species and rainforests. It is essential that logging stop to allow forests to reduce the impacts of climate heating by removing CO₂ from the atmosphere, and recover their integrity to better withstand future disasters.