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

Existing arrangements, when properly accounted for, demonstrate that current and future forestry operations in NSW are unsustainable.

There should be a complete cessation of native forest logging - all logging in native forests should be required to permanently cease operations within (say) 6 months and areas of logged native forest should be reinstated.

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

Under existing arrangements the environmental and cultural values of a forest, including threatened species and Aboriginal cultural heritage values, are often overborne by the short term commercial benefit in harvesting the forest - this is a false accounting which should be rejected. Logging of native forests is leading to the extinction of species (there are many examples) and so cannot, on any reasonable accounting, be considered sustainable.

We need healthy native forests for holding carbon, cleaning our water, providing habitat, improving fire management and providing recreation and spiritual connection. As logging in native forests is contrary to these matters, it threatens the environmental and cultural values of those forests.

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

Demand for timber products should only be met by certified plantation timber sourced from responsibly managed plantations - this is the only basis on which a forestry operation can be considered sustainable

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

Future forestry operations in NSW should be limited to the harvesting of responsibly managed plantation timber - all logging of native forests should permanently cease within 6 months.

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

As Forestry Corporation of NSW has been found by the courts to have breached the law on many occasions, the role and performance of this organisation should be examined by a parliamentary enquiry. Whether it is suitable for any on-going role is an issue that could be considered by the enquiry.

Economic and social outcomes should be afforded no greater weight than environmental outcomes - otherwise there is false accounting.

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

There is an opportunity to (properly) account for any carbon and biodiversity benefits arising from the retention of existing native forest and the repair and reinstatement of areas of logged native forest.

There may be an opportunity to (properly) account for any carbon and biodiversity benefits arising from the sustainable operation of timber plantations.