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

I submit evidence here that native forest logging is not sustainable into the future and suggest a move to plantation timber on previously-logged land

1. The yield from public native forests is declining
2. Logging of native forests reduces biomass and carbon storage, and valuable food sources and hollow bearing trees
3. Native forest logging increases fire threat and intensity, erosion and water way pollution, and the penetration of weeds and other invasive species
3. Native forest logging reduces the function and health of waterways, including streams and rivers.

Plantations on previously cleared land will reverse all of the above negatives

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

Unlogged native forests are of enormous cultural and environmental value:

1. Healthy and unlogged forests are critical to the whole environment and both First Nations and non-First Nations culture and identity
2. Forests, particularly healthy mature forests, generate rainfall, cool the landscape and clean the air
3. 150 threatened species in NSW are directly impacted by logging native forests
4. Mature and unlogged native forests are critical for pollinators and play a key role in pollination across the landscape, both inside and outside of forests
4. Native forests provide recreation and improved health outcomes to locals and visitors alike and are a source of community pride and connection to place, especially for First Nations people and communities
5. Native forest logging compromises many ecosystems and habitats throughout NSW

These issues do not arise in the case of purpose-planted plantation forests

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

Here I will demonstrate that native forest harvesting is not necessary to satisfy current timber demand. This can be easily achieved through a small increase (approximately 9%) in tree planting in timber plantations:

1. Hardwood logs are not really of good quality meaning that many logs taken from native forests are turned into woodchip and exported
2. Hardwood sourced from native forests or plantations are no longer necessary for any of the construction uses now satisfied by plantation softwood.
3. The market and demand for native forests is declining rapidly,

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

I will demonstrate that native forestry is no longer necessary to meet timber supply needs.

1. Plantations already provide 91% of Australia's log production
2. A 9% increase in planting will eliminate this shortfall and furthermore, if a higher proportion of harvested logs from plantations could be immediately prioritised as saw and veneer logs, rather than exporting them as wood chips
3. Subsidising the logging of public native forests by the Forestry Corporation is non-competitive and distorts the market away from the more profitable softwood plantation industry.

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 many better role options for State Forests, rather than simply logging

1. Native forests that are not logged have real and tangible benefits to the entire ecology and economy of NSW
2. Native state forests cover an area of 2 million hectares in NSW and impact on a diverse set of living conditions for many towns, from water quality in reservoirs, to greater tourism industry opportunities, and carbon storage and abatement.

Furthermore, the native forest hardwood division of the Forestry Corporation currently 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.

This situation must be turned around as people of NSW should not be paying millions of dollars to destroy the biodiversity of our own state and critical habitat for threatened species.

These forests will therefore yield an economic return to the Forestry Commission if they are allowed to function naturally and without logging.

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

The Forestry Commission has a chance to realise significant carbon and biodiversity benefits by halting native forest logging in NSW

1. Stopping the release 3.6 million tonnes of carbon every year (the equivalent to removing 840 thousand cars from the roads per year)
2. Allow previously logged forests to regain lost carbon and make a significant contribution to meeting our emissions targets
3. Create forests that are more resilient to the changing climate and catastrophic fires that are occurring as a consequence