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

NSW has been on the forefront of sustainable logging for a long time now. This is how we prefer to source the timber we sell, unlike unregulated sources in South East Asia, Africa, Europe and South America that we'll end up having to rely on for supply of this important building and finishing material.

The practises implemented by Forestry NSW are a world standard and reflect our aim as Australians to benefit from this invaluable renewable and eco-friendly material. It's a body that insures application of the best practises to minimise the impact of logging on our natural reserves, fauna and flora.

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

NSW has an abundance of supply of many species of hardwood that are not in any shape or form considered threatened. And when the Forestry practises are followed we can rest assured of no future threats to our forests and environment. Studies are constantly made towards both the environmental and cultural impacts of logging and measures and regulations to minimize those impacts are implemented all the time.

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

Timber plays a major role in the supply chain of building materials in Australia. As the Federal Government pushes for a major increase in house numbers this will emphasize more the role our natural forests can play in this.

By wisely managing our forests we can fill the gap with sustainable resources instead of relying on potentially harmful imported ones we have no control over.

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

Plantations are in no doubt a great way of generating more of this sustainable and renewable material. However, the government's plan to rely solely on plantation timbers has to allow for the 30-40 years required to grow a stock that is suitable for consumption. Until such time we must be able to rely on our natural resources while keeping in mind our best sustainability practises.

The timber industry in NSW consumes a minute number of trees compared to the whole of our natural reserves, all this while planting more as we log.

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

Both the Federal and State governments work very closely with Forestry NSW and the collaboration has had great results so far.

That aside, the effects of stopping logging completely will be devastating to thousands of families who rely for their income on this industry. This will change the way hundreds of logging towns look and feel and will put more pressure on the government to find alternative employment and social solutions. In addition, there are thousands more families of people who work in the retail sector who will be negatively affected.

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 issue with minimising carbon is that it has been politicised to its core and used for votes and political gains.

No one in their right mind will ignore the importance of safeguarding our forests for the sake of our future and the future of the next generations. If we stop responsible logging in Australia but turn our heads towards importing timber from overseas then aren't we but hypocrites? I think by well managing this natural and renewable resource locally we will be creating a better future for this planet and putting pressure on other countries to do so as well.