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

It is time for the NSW government to follow the lead of the WA and Victorian Governments and ban native forest logging and switch to entirely plantations based logging. The native forest logging industry is not sustainable, even in the short term.

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

Key environmental values being undermined by current native forest logging practices

1. Reducing the biodiversity of the forests
2. Reducing habitat for native species including those that need hollows to survive and breed.
3. Driving species like Koalas and greater gliders closer to extinction.
4. Adversely impacting on water resources (streams and rivers)
5. Making bush fires in the forest more intense.
6. Destroying carbon sinks (ie old growth and mature trees)

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

Timber required for NSW housing, construction, mining, transport and retail can be entirely provided by plantation timber (much more uniform and of better quality). Too much of native forest timber products are used for low end uses like woodchips. As a taxpayer I am sick of paying to have our native forests logged - to see the clear felling in the Eurobodalla from a light plane just makes one weep.

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

State Government should only invest public funds in softwood, and hardwood plantations. Private native forestry should not be supported for all the same reasons as for native forest logging on public land.

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

State Forests has failed on all of these key performance measures as can be seen by the increasing number of violations of EPA standards. State Forests is a commercial entity with the over riding priority of providing forests for extractive industries. Its a fantasy to expect them to manage competing uses of land.

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 key way to realise carbon and biodiversity benefits is to stop native forest logging. Public funds should only be used for softwood and hardwood plantations. These create far more profitable logging products and employment.

Our native forests are already being adversely impacted by global warming. The increased heat and periods of dry weather on the coast are changing the biological make up of forests. Logging just adds to the stress on our forests. Opening up the canopy allows more intense fires.