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

Current and future logging operations in NSW is not sustainable. The removal of trees that provide critical habitat for threatened species including Greater Gliders, Yellow-bellied Gliders and Koalas is directly threatening these species with extinction. Current provisions to assess den trees and crucial feed trees for protection from logging are woefully inadequate. This is clearly unsustainable and unacceptable and logging must be stopped immediately.

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

Forests provide critical habitat for threatened species, are crucial for water quality protection, and provide essential recreation, cultural and spiritual values, particularly for indigenous communities. Logging continues to destroy and degrade these environmental and cultural values.

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

There is no need to log public forests to provide timber for housing and construction. These demands can be met by plantation timber products.

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

Softwood and hardwood plantations are already providing the vast majority of Australia's log production, and further investment of hardwood plantations on already-cleared land could supply timber products into the future. There is no need to log public forests if the current subsidies could be directed into investment towards sustainable private forest timber production.

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 can provide a vital role in providing environmental outcomes through the conservation of critical wildlife habitat, and improved economic and social outcomes through recreational tourism if logging ceases and the forests protected and restored. Aboriginal forest management models, having been developed over millennia and based on truly sustainable practices, are a key tool to achieve these positive outcomes.

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

Logging releases vast amounts of carbon which contributes to the climate crisis. Ending logging in NSW forests would allow the restoration of large swathes of forests to capture and store more carbon and help mitigate the risks of climate change.