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

Forestry in NSW both native forest and plantations are managed under policies set by the government. The policies are developed to act as environmental and resource safety nets

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

The forests are actively managed in an attempt to maintain environmental values and flora and fauna. The industry is part of the identity in my region and the forests are managed and maintained for the continuation of the industry. Removing harvesting from the forest will be a threat to forest values through lack of management and increase the main threat: Fire.

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

The material milled from forests has changed over time. The logs milled now are milled to gain the highest recovery and material that would have gone to waste is now utilized. These products are saleable due to demand.

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

Australia is a net importer of timber. Closing native forest harvesting will make things worse. The plantation estate supplies plenty into the softwood and fiber markets, but the hardwood plantation estate is not an immediate resource. Timber I have milled from hardwood plantations have, in comparison to native forest timbers, been smaller and softer. The material recovered was suitable for pallet wood only. To put this in perspective, pallet wood is referred to as 'dunnage' and is 1 step above 'waste'.

Half of the timber I mill is from public native forests, closing the public resource will leave the mill wanting for 50% of input until hardwood estate timbers are mature and viable. Access to private wood is impacted by changes to state and local government policy.

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 forest are managed maximise these outcomes. The biggest threat is removing management causing weed and pest species outbreaks and fire.

Fire is not only a risk to the forest and its values, which are destroyed by a hot fire, but also the surrounding communities.

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

Forest management is well established and reviewed. The markets for carbon and biodiversity already accept native forest values. Managing the forest enhances forest health, reduces the threat of fire and provides access for management. Timber harvested stores carbon, and the regenerating forest sequesters more. Animals require a range of canopy ages and coverage for their survival, animals aren't only found in old, untouched forests.