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

Logging in NSW native forests is unsustainable. By removing older trees, we destroy essential habitats for species like the Koala and Great Glider, contributing to their decline. Post-2019/20 bushfires, this practice is even more damaging, pushing forest-dependent wildlife closer to extinction. Urgent changes are needed to prevent irreversible loss.

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

Forests regulate water quality and flow, vital for regional communities, tourism, and fisheries. Forests offer recreational, cultural, and spiritual value, particularly for Aboriginal communities, whose heritage is intrinsically linked to these landscapes. Forests provide essential habitats for endangered species and play a critical role in maintaining biodiversity and ecosystem health, which benefits both the environment and regional communities. Forests can also provide habitat corridors to ensure connectivity that supports broader biodiversity and ecological resilience.

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

There is no longer a need to log native forests for construction. Modern housing and construction can now be fully supported by plantation-sourced timber, eliminating the necessity for native forest logging. Plantation timber is the future. Shifting to plantation-grown timber supports a sustainable industry and alleviates pressure on native ecosystems, promoting long-term ecological balance.

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

Plantations already produce 91% of Australia's timber. Expanding plantations on cleared land can secure future timber needs. Focusing on high-value plantations will enhance sustainability and profitability. End subsidies for native forest logging to drive more sustainable practices in private forestry and incentivise responsible timber production on private lands.

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

Protecting State Forests will enhance essential water security and resources, boost tourism, and create local jobs.

The Forestry's current model is economically unsustainable, relying heavily on government support. Transitioning to well-managed plantations can yield greater timber supply with fewer environmental impacts

Adopting Aboriginal forest management practices can enhance both cultural and ecological value, integrating traditional knowledge with modern conservation strategies.

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 in native forests releases large amounts of carbon, worsening climate change.

Protecting forests will help them recover, increase carbon storage, and mitigate climate risks like wildfires and droughts.

Healthy forests contributes to biodiversity and opens up opportunities in carbon markets, providing both environmental and economic benefits.