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

Native forest logging is unsustainable. It is a finite resource that has increasingly been depleted over years of intermittent industrial scale logging.

Logging destroys the forests effectiveness as a carbon sink. Forests generate rainfall, cool and clean the air and provides vital habitat for wildlife. If we destroy that, which is what is currently being allowed and happening, then we will destroy ourselves. We are part of a whole biosphere and not independant from it.

* Ending native forest logging will allow previously logged forests to regain lost carbon and make a significant contribution to meeting our emissions targets.

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

Native forest logging drives loss of biodiversity through hastening wildlife extinction in loss of viable habitat. The science is very clear on this.

Healthy unlogged forests are critical to the whole environment- to both non 1st Nations and 1st Nations culture, identity and sense of well being.

Logging causes large scale soil, land and waterways deterioration. This is all so important to a healthy environment.

Native forest logging increases fire threat and intensity, and allows the penetration of weeds and other invasive species. The use of poisons in mitigating this is absolutely unacceptable because of the negative impact on multiple animal species and on aquatic life. It is polluting to waterways.

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

* Logging in native forests accounted for only 9% of the total log production in Australia in the year 2023. Native forest logging contributes only 2.4 million of the total 25 million cubic metres for that year

* Half of the logs taken from native forests in 2023 were turned into woodchip and exported

* Hardwood logs taken from plantations made up 8.5 million cubic metres, and just 8% of these logs were saw and veneer logs. 87% of hardwood plantation logs were exported as wood chips

* Hardwood sourced from native forests or plantations are no longer necessary for any of the uses identified in this section

* Sawn and treated softwood logs and composite timber products made from softwoods can substitute for all current uses for native forest and plantation hardwoods

* The market and demand for native forests is declining rapidly, the recent example of Essential Energy moving away from power poles harvested from native forests is just one example

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

* Plantations already provide 91% of Australia's log production

Public submission

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- * A higher proportion of harvested logs from plantations should be prioritised as saw and veneer logs, rather than exporting them as wood chips
 - * Subsidising the logging of public native forests by the Forestry Corporation is non-competitive and distorts the market away from the more profitable softwood plantation industry
 - * High-end and luxury native hardwood products should only be selectively harvested on private land and under strict conditions
range of environmental, economic and social outcomes and options for diverse management, including Aboriginal forest management models
 - * Native forests that are not logged have real and tangible benefits to the entire ecology and economy of NSW
 - * Native state forests cover an area of 2 million hectares in NSW and impact on a diverse set of living conditions for many towns, from water quality in reservoirs, to greater tourism industry opportunities, and carbon storage and abatement
 - * The native forest hardwood division of the Forestry Corporation operates at a loss that runs into tens of millions of dollars, at the expense of the NSW public. It also additionally receives tens of millions of dollars in regular equity injections
 - * The people of NSW should not be paying millions of dollars to destroy the biodiversity of our own state and critical habitat for threatened species
 - * Public native forests have a much higher economic value when they are allowed to function naturally and without logging
 - * First Nations Ranger Programs have been hugely successful at managing the recovery and health of native forests. Programs like the Githabul Rangers have shown how First Nations knowledge and management can restore the natural and critical function of forests in the landscape