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

What has been occurring with the logging of forests on the NSW Mid North Coast has set back the health of our forests and endangered our communities for generations to come. At every opportunity big trees have been taken in a manner that is unsustainable with a logging culture that emphasises over production. It is an industry that is out of balance. It is an industry that doesn't have enough restrictions and protections to stop biodiversity lost, to protect us all from carbon emissions, to protect us from loss of rain and water retention. When a forest is logged, the timber product is of low value, the carbon stored within the product is minimal as slashings, sawdust, woodchip, pallets and even decking needs replacing after 20 years.

When I lived at Valla I had 50,000 ha of SF at Bollanolla, and Viewmont as a nearby neighbour. Where once healthy strands of forests existed, and wildlife could be witnessed as abundant, today all large trees are gone from the side of the road, and roading for logging purposes snakes through every gully and ridge. The forest is visibly thinned and diminished and dried out. My family had 30 acres of forest on an old cattle property that was turned into a macadamia farm. When the farm was first purchased the forests on the farm had been logged about 30 years prior. I watched these forests for 45 years. At 30 years old nothing much existed in the forests, they may as well have been asphalt. At 45 years of forest recovery permanent water filled the gullies. At 60 years old age the forests began to look healthy but was open to lantana infestation, and bell miner invasion. On the other side of Viewmont SF around Missabotti where Viewmont SF borders onto Bellingen Road - logged slopes lead to massive erosion when the flooding came. The Nambucca Valley side of the road collapsed. This was an access road between the towns of Bellingen and Bowraville. The state government at the time decided not to re-fund the road costs for Nambucca. It was left as a bike track for years. This affected the community, diminished visitation between the towns. People left. Then fires went through this landscape, more people left. Logging diminishes our communities, it leaves them vulnerable to floods, to fires, to climate change, to the very social fabric that makes people want to live in an area.

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

Future timber for beams and poles should be composite timbers which don't need big old trees. These timbers are better, they are lighter, easier to transport, don't rot as much, aren't prone to insect attack. They can be re-constituted. They are stronger as well. This is where we need to be headed in the future. Alternatives to timber products need to be developed and manufactured at scale to swap out timber products.

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

We are continually seeing the expansion of hardwood plantations in the State Forests. There seems to be no proper definition of what constitutes a plantation, so they seem to continually expand. It seems that the lack of governance over what constitutes a plantation is open to

exploitation. There are also not enough protections for the pockets of native forests that already exists within the plantations. It's a cowboy landscape.

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

THE GKNP is a great example of what the role of State Forests could be for NSW communities. On the Mid North Coast the GKNP is a much-anticipated outcome for our community, the NPWS and Indigenous stakeholders. The expansion of the NPWS will help with closing the gap measures and will offer hope for good jobs on country to the Indigenous community. It will also be a great tourist boon for our area. Degraded forests can be rejuvenated and people can experience the wellbeing that comes from the concept of forest bathing or trekking through a wild landscape. The spinoffs from these purposes will be huge.

Unfortunately the resource grab that has recently occurred within the proposed boundaries of the Great Koala National Park is shameful and a disgrace. Statistics on logging inside GKNP as per plan portal =1ha of every 24.3 ha. Outside the GKNP = 1ha of every 104.4 ha within a mapped active logging operation. Why can't the government protect its investment?

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

I despair today when I see the timber jinkers going into the mill every day. And woodchip coming out. The idea that nature is an endless resource forgets that nature is full of boundaries. Most importantly a 100-year-old tree will sequester carbon at the same rate as 270 ten-year-old trees. When I see the huge number of 50-year-old trees being removed from the forests around me I despair for the 15-year-olds from the future. In 50 years', time when we are used to living with the extremes of heat and the weather of climate change, and climate collapse. I can see that 15-year-old mourning all the old trees that aren't there to efficiently remove carbon from the biosphere and thinking , how could they do this to us?

Trees are worth far more being left in the ground. Leaving our state forests is the cheapest and most effective way to sequester carbon from the atmosphere and eventually cool the planet.