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

I strongly believe that native forest logging is unsustainable. Far more forest has been destroyed than has been regrown.

Also the term "logging" is misleading - it suggests that selective "logs" are removed which indeed used to be the case but what is happening now is industrial clearing of forests and the understory that goes with them. There is so much waste in these sorts of operations with enormous winrows left behind to be burnt, thereby releasing more CO₂. Also as suitable tree stocks have dwindled the protections have decreased allowing eg forest removal closer to waterways and on steep slopes. This grossly impacts water quality in the nearby towns and communities. Water is so important that water sources should be totally protected. I have seen native forest converted to single species plantations (blackbutt) and this is a disaster for biodiversity and the animal, bird and plants that depend on complex ecosystems.

It is unsustainable to treat native forests as a renewable crop or something to be "mined".

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

Forests have a huge impact on environment over a great area. It is well known that clearing forests leads to the drying of land increasing bushfire risk. Mature forests help to provide more rain by increased evaporation and absorb more carbon dioxide. Mature trees provide valuable habitat for an enormous number of birds and animals particularly those that rely on tree hollows for survival. This can only be provided in complex native forests. Regrowth takes far too long and plantations do not do the same job at all.

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

Only a very small amount of the native forest timber is used for quality products in housing, furniture etc. Over 90% of it goes to woodchips and pulp for paper products and low-value articles like garden stakes. This makes no economic sense at all. Softwood plantations can provide all our needs.

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

The financial support of public native forest logging by the government is uneconomic and makes no sense. Softwood plantations can supply all our timber needs. Alternatives to timber for woodchips and pulp should be investigated eg bamboo, hemp etc.

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

I believe that unlogged state forests can provide enormous benefits to the local areas and the rest of the state.

Environment benefits - water security.

Well-being - just being in nature is a huge boost to mental health.

Tourism - opportunities for indigenous and non-indigenous programs. Walking tours, mountain bike riding, bushfood and other indigenous uses of the forest.

The local indigenous groups should be the first stop in considering these uses.

The forests are worth far more when left unlogged.

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

Leaving mature trees standing is a huge carbon benefit as I have read that logging the forest releases an enormous amount of carbon into the atmosphere.

Unlogged forests are more resilient to the changing climate and will be more able to withstand the catastrophic fires that are occurring as a consequence of accelerated man-made climate change.