

16 March 2011

Re: Submission to The House of Representatives Agriculture, Resources,
Fisheries and Forestry Committee

Parliamentary Inquiry into Forestry

I am a resident living near to Doubleduke State Forest where Forests NSW logged an Endangered Ecological Community. Through the process of writing letters and talking with DECCW and Forests NSW I have researched forestry issues in NSW.

Under the Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) it appears there is an over commitment in timber resources that is resulting in non-compliances to the RFA. This agreement seems to have failed in realising a sustainable forestry whilst providing ecological sustainable forest management.

Several neighbours wrote to DECCW regarding the breaches in Doubleduke State Forest but there seems to be a failure in the ability to hold Forests NSW accountable for breaches. In Yabbra State Forest major breaches only gleaned a \$1,200 fine.

In the Private Native Forestry (PNF) it appears DECCW is acting like a logging company. It was reported in the news that DECCW accidentally approved over 8,000 HA of Old Growth for logging due to surveying and mapping errors. This is a real concern and they have not revoked those approvals as of this date. In addition to this, Core Koala Habitat in Coff's Harbour area has been approved for logging and is under dispute with the Coff's Harbour Council.

As a concerned citizen, the loss of Endangered Ecological Communities, Rainforests, Old Growth and Core Koala Habitat when this is not supposed to happen is very alarming. There should be a moratorium on logging until a thorough assessment of our forests is undertaken so that DECCW can rest assured any approvals fit the current regulations. I oppose changing the rules to suit the current breaches of the Regional Forest Agreement.

The 2010 Australian Bureau of Statistics shows that we have a net loss of biodiversity. The current forest practices where ongoing breaches of licenses are occurring could cause species extinction and destruction of their habitats. Running heavy machinery in Doubleduke State Forests Endangered Ecological Community with the presence of the endangered Emus population does not maintain or improve the outcome for our public forests. They got 40 trees to send to the mill, some of them old growth whilst destroying the soil structure and trashing over 1,000 plants and trees in an area meant to have protection. Forests NSW was notified by several residents of the Emus that are part of 120 individuals thought to be left were active in the area but logging continued.

These issues need to be addressed. A moratorium should be put in place until a review of DECCW PNF division and Forests NSW can be undertaken. Departments should be properly resourced and any mapping or surveying issues addressed before any more logging is allowed. We need these forests resources for our future. Current management seems to be heading towards a desirable merchantable species such as Blackbutt in lieu of a bio diverse system that supports complex species.

It would be shame to lose what's left of our native forests and their inhabitants but current practices will surely cause this to happen. In light of all the over logging, I am now in support of banning logging of Native Forests and utilising plantations planted on farm land. No native forests should be cleared to establish plantations.

Thanks for considering my submission.