



Melissa Gunner

1/9/2008.

To: EPBC Senate Inquiry
Parliament House,
Canberra, ACT. 2600.

RE: Logging of water catchment forests in regions surrounding Warburton, Victoria, commencing in September/October 2008.

Logging in catchment areas surrounding Warburton, Victoria, including the Armstrong Catchment and Cement Creek in East Warburton, is offensive and inappropriate for the following reasons.

According to recent studies, Mountain ash is one of the best carbon storeers. To cut down these forests is a fool-hardy set-back to reducing our carbon emissions.

The beauty, age and variety of flora and habitat for native wild-life cannot be replaced by replanting. According to the E.P.A., habitat for endangered species, such as the lead-beater possum, must be protected.

The atmosphere on the streets is that people are strongly against the logging of forests in this region.

Economically, the township survives on the trade of tourists attracted to the natural beauty of the surrounding wilderness. I, myself, bought my family home here, attracted to the surrounding state and national forests. Ugly, cleared forest sites and noisy invasive logging trucks will be stressful on the local community and counter-productive to local trade that relies on the present natural ambience for trade.

Logging will not be a popular move. I strongly recommend we do not log these precious areas.

Yours sincerely
Melissa Gunner
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(resident and active community member).