



Our reference: MD12/3265

Ms Harriett Swift  
treehugger@savetheforests.org.au

Dear Ms Swift

I refer to your email to Forests NSW regarding logging operations in Tanja State Forest, which you forwarded to the Minister for the Environment, The Hon Robyn Parker MP. The Minister has referred your email to the Environment Protection Authority (EPA), and I am responding on her behalf.

As you would be aware, the NSW Government was recently successful in obtaining funding from the Australian Government's Biodiversity Fund for a project entitled "Corridors and Key Habitat for Koalas in the NSW Far South Coast". This project seeks to establish a strategic approach to protection and improvement of koala habitat in the region.

As part of this project, Forests NSW and the Office of Environment and Heritage have agreed to revised survey provisions for koalas. New surveys have identified evidence of koalas in part of Tanja State Forest.

Updated protection measures are being negotiated between the Office of Environment and Heritage, the EPA and Forests NSW and will also be applied to this site. I understand Forests NSW has suspended logging in Tanja State Forest until the updated protection measures are finalised. Once this occurs, I understand Forests NSW will update their harvest plan and provide an opportunity for the community to provide comment.

The EPA will continue to monitor Forests NSW activities in relation to Eden Integrated Forestry Operations Approval (IFOA), and focus its regulatory effort on high risk issues or issues where a noticeable non-compliance trend is detected.

In 2011-12, the EPA undertook 39 audits across NSW, including 11 which were initiated in response to allegations received from members of the public. Six of these audits were conducted in the Eden IFOA region and the EPA issued Forests NSW with two warnings letters, two penalty notices issues and a request for remedial works to be done.

The EPA also undertakes targeted compliance campaigns to focus audit effort on a particular issue or compliance trend. During 2011-12 for example, the EPA undertook a campaign to assess Forests NSW implementation of site-specific threatened species licence prescriptions. Forests NSW were sent a warning letter for non-compliances detected and a workshop was held with EPA and Forests NSW ecologists to ensure consistent interpretation of relevant site specific licence conditions into the future.

Should you wish to obtain further information on how the EPA undertakes compliance campaign work in relation to the IFOAs, please contact Mr Gregory Abood, Manager of Crown Forestry Operations on 9995 6707.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Yours sincerely

 13.9.2012

**CRAIG BRETHERTON**  
**Acting Director South**  
**Environment Protection Authority**