



South East Region Conservation Alliance Inc

www.serca.org.au

contact@serca.org.au

PO Box 724 Narooma NSW 2546 AUSTRALIA

TO THE NSW ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY

SERCA's response to an invitation from you to attend an information session for environmental groups on the draft Coastal Integrated Forestry Operations Approvals (IFOAs) at Narooma on Thursday 7th June.

We are so disappointed with these changes to the IFOAs as well as the RFA changes recently proposed, especially the processes imposed on us with your sham consultations, that SERCA will not be attending your information sessions so that you can justify your so-called 'consultations'.

We find it completely incomprehensible that the EPA, which is established to protect our environment, clearly appears to be aligned with this Government in sacrificing our precious environmental values to fill the over-committed wood supply agreements negotiated by NSW Forestry Corporation, against the public good and the public interest. The report of the Natural Resources Commission clearly states that "it is not possible to meet the Government's commitments around both environmental values and wood supply" yet you plough ahead to sacrifice those values you should be protecting on our behalf—shame on you. Yet again this is the fox in the henhouse.

We would like to invite your senior management to come down to the South Coast and see what the grey wording of the existing IFOAs has actually allowed to happen to our forests in the Southern and Eden Management Areas. This 'new' integrated proposal spreads the destructive and illogical practices from down here up to the north coast and makes them so much worse by taking out some of the already weak protections that existed previously.

The worst thing our government has done with both the RFA and IFOA proposals is to totally throw out any semblance of Ecologically Sustainable Forest Management. In our view, there should be a halt to logging and your department, the NSW Forestry Corporation and our Governments properly brought to account for the destruction of our forests.

The new draft IFOAs implicitly acknowledge that the far south coast logging will remain the worst in the state. Other regions will catch up a little, but ours will still be the winner in the race to the bottom. These 'approvals' go against our social and environmental conscience and recognise that the damage to our precious natural environment is, and has been, a disgrace to the nation of Australia.

The outcome is a forgone conclusion with the new laws clearing the legal decks for the industry to go for broke while there are still some trees remaining. For decades this region has endured of the most intensive logging in the State to supply the Eden chipmill.

Governments should now be looking at fair and responsible ways to wind up the industry. They should stop deluding themselves and the public that our forests are a magic pudding that can keep on producing woodchips indefinitely and pretend that environmental values are being protected. By ceasing the logging of native forests, jobs for people within the industry can be transitioned into management of forests for restorative activities based on adaptive, mitigative strategies.

These forests belong to the people of NSW and it is no longer wise or intelligent to pursue extractive practices in light of the demise of our unique native species, the critical need to protect natural carbon stores and to recognise the need for intergenerational equity.

We're disgusted at the cavalier approach the Governments take to pillaging our State's natural heritage.

Dr Bronte Somerset, SERCA Committee, on behalf of the South East Region Conservation Alliance Inc.

**native forests for
beauty canopy carbon climate culture habitat heritage jobs oxygen soil water wildlife wonder**



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SUPPORTING ORGANISATIONS

Member groups of SERCA and Great Southern Forest endorser.

Australian Association of Bush Regenerators
Australian Earth Laws Alliance
Australian Forests and Climate Alliance
Australian Plants Society
Australian Rainforest Conservation Society
Australian Wildlife Society
Bega Environment Network. Contact
Bega Valley Greens
Better Planning Network Inc.
Chipstop
Clean Energy for Eternity Inc.
Colong Foundation for Wilderness
Conservation Council ACT Region
Conservation Council of South Australia
Environment East Gippsland
Environment Victoria
Forest Media.
Four Winds
Friends of Five Forests.
Friends of Leadbeater's Possum
Friends of the Earth Australia
Friends of the Koala Inc.
Green Music Australia
Gulaga (Mt Dromedary) Protection Group.
Healesville Environment Watch Inc.

Lawyers for Forests
Montreal Goldfield
Mulong
My Environment
National Parks Association, Far South Coast Branch. NPA NSW
National Trust NSW
Nature Conservation Council NSW
North Coast Environment Council
NSW Bird Atlassers Australia Inc.
NSW Wildlife Council Inc.
Potoroo Palace
SCPA South East Producers
SEE-Change, Society, Environment and Economy
South East Forest Rescue.
Southern Forest Watchers.
Stop Arms Fairs in Eurobodalla
The Coastwatchers' Association Inc.
The Wilderness Society
Threatened Species Art Competition
Total Environment Centre
Trees for Life
Western Australia Forest Alliance
Wildlife Rescue South Coast