

Seán Burke  
PO Box 2105  
CENTRAL TILBA NSW 2546

Phone: 02 4474 5147 b/h

Mobile: 0411 779 571

Email: [sean.burke@wesleymission.org.au](mailto:sean.burke@wesleymission.org.au)

The Editors  
Narooma News  
Bega District News

Email: [mail.naroomanews@ruralpress.com](mailto:mail.naroomanews@ruralpress.com)

Email: [editor.beganews@ruralpress.com](mailto:editor.beganews@ruralpress.com)

Dear Stan/Steve,

RE: LETTERS TO THE EDITOR – “IMPORTANT ISSUES”

*“What issues are most important to you”* asks our Federal Member of the Rudd Government, Hon Dr Mike Kelly AM MP in his glossy survey and then goes on to list 12 items that he would like us to prioritise. Surprisingly, the only environmental issue listed is *“Investing in solar and wind power”*.

Investing in solar and wind power offers a very small step towards reducing our carbon footprint but it will not arrest global warming, it will not help our threatened and endangered species nor protect our bio-diversity, it will not reduce the risk of catastrophic fires in our forests and it will do nothing to protect the integrity of our water catchments and precious waterways.

Deforestation and forest degradation through logging creates between 20% and 25% of this country’s greenhouse gasses and we have recently learned that logging of native eucalypt forests dries out the forest floor and increases the risk of wildfire.

With the recent deluges of rain in the area, we’ve seen the ongoing impact of sand in our waterways, most of it generated by the removal of trees, and we now learn that one of the last surviving colonies of koala in south-east NSW is to be put under further stress by imminent logging of their habitat from Tathra to Gulaga. I urge your readers to get a copy of the Interim Report on Koala Surveys in the Coastal Forests of the Bermagui-Mumbulla Area released by NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water three weeks ago and available on their website.

There’s more than enough plantation timber ready for harvest right now than this country’s total needs including exporting of woodchips for paper production in Japan. With royalties of \$7.60 per ton for logs out of Eurobodalla going to the Eden chipmill, it’s no wonder that the NSW government posted a loss of \$14,500,000.00 last financial year from its forest operations.

The Rudd Government has the power to put an end to the senseless logging of our natural native forests and I urge your readers to get the message back to Dr Kelly that pouring millions of dollars into Indonesia to save their forests while sacrificing the habitat of our few remaining koalas in this area is just not on.

Yours sincerely,

Seán Burke