

MEDIA RELEASE: In New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania, logging is destroying the fabric of our unique native forests. Prue Acton. 20.09.09

"As the Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act is not applied where Regional Forest Agreements are in place, State forestry interests think they can do whatever they like.

Complaints fall on deaf ears; expert consultants, local residents and green groups can do nothing." said Ms Acton spokesperson for South East Region Conservation Alliance(SERCA).

Logging of 60-100 year old spotted gums is going at full pace in Bermagui only fifty metres from the shores of Black Lagoon, a Sanctuary zone and part of the spectacular Wallaga Lake Batemans Marine Park. This is contrary to recommendations that forests in the area should be expertly managed for the last remaining koala population.

Last week in Victoria a judge granted an injunction against VicForest to stop logging 500 -800 year old trees at Brown Mountain, East Gippsland. For now the threatened long-footed potoroo and the forest win a reprieve, under Victoria's Flora and Fauna Act.

"Why on earth are State Forestry departments determined to continue the unsustainable logging of the most carbon dense forests in the world, with their essential water catchments and habitat for our diminishing wildlife?

All for what? The majority of Australia's timber and fibre needs could be met by taxpayer subsidized plantations. Nine out of ten native forests logs are woodchipped and shipped to Japan for cheap copy paper and now to be burnt for electricity."

"Two people were arrested last week after entering a Bermagui logging area; not all of us are brave enough to do this; but what can we do when politicians are deaf to the 77% of people who want native forest logging stopped?" said Ms Acton