



South East Region Conservation Alliance Inc

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MEDIA RELEASE: SENATOR COLBECK CONTRADICTS SECRET GOVERNMENT AND ANU FOREST RESEARCH SCIENTISTS' FINDINGS. SERCA. 21.07.2015

As Background Briefing (ABC RN 19.07.2015) indicated, that the Commonwealth and NSW State Governments have two choices: to acknowledge the vital importance of forests for a safe climate and protect them for carbon, water and wildlife, or to leap backwards and continue multimillion dollar subsidies to support destruction of natural climate mitigation systems simply to pander to a prologging lobby group, says the South East Region Conservation Alliance (SERCA).

ABC Background Briefing this week revealed that research by ANU scientists, and the Federal Government's own secret research, shows that 80% of our 2020 carbon reduction target can be met by leaving our iconic native forests in the ground.

'With Federal Parliament recently passing legislation allowing native forests to be burnt for electricity, this dying industry will receive yet another subsidy in the form of Renewable Energy Credits' said Prue Acton for SERCA.

'The native forest sector is not viable without sales of the 90% timber left over from saw logging. Only 2% of logs are used for high quality timber product and international woodchip markets have collapsed with the move to plantations.'

'Why are governments playing favourites with the native forest logging industry? Senator Colbeck admits there is little harvestable timber left after decades of overlogging to supply export woodchips' said Bronte Somerset.

'Plantations have replaced over 80% of timber and fibre needs. The descriptive from a logger that the forests were "stuffed" sums up the situation.'

'Let's leave native forests in the ground to capture carbon, supply fresh water and provide habitat for our iconic Australian wildlife' concluded Prue Acton.

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