



A case for retaining intact the forest that will contribute to the economic benefits that will flow from 'Australia's Coastal Wilderness'

- Forests NSW is logging parts of the Bermagui State Forest.
- This forest forms the treed corridor along the Scenic Route from Cobargo to Bermagui and is the northern gateway to Australia's Coastal Wilderness. It is a cultural and environmental corridor between the National Parks of Gulaga and Biamanga.
- Australia's Coastal Wilderness was recently designated under the National Landscapes Program as one of the top 20 experiences for international tourists.
- The National Landscapes Program is a Commonwealth initiative between Tourism Australia and Parks Australia (part of the Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts).
- The National Landscapes Program is not an isolated regional initiative, it is a national, strategic approach to boost international tourism in this country – a sector which is on an alarming decline.
- National Landscape marketing about a special kind of tourism. It is aimed at high paying, discerning, 'soft footprint' tourists - people who are willing to pay a high price for nature-based and cultural experiences that are not on offer elsewhere in the world, or if they are, they are probably not as safe or accessible.
- Australia's Coastal Wilderness extends from Bermagui in NSW to Lakes Entrance in Victoria.
- It is the best accessible temperate forest coastal wilderness in the world.

- It is already the 16th most important earner of inbound tourism dollars and we can expect a significant increase in tourism revenue when the appropriate infrastructure is in place and marketing is in full swing.
- Regional planning and marketing is being driven by a Steering Committee comprising representatives of national and regional tourism and hospitality, national parks, the Bega Valley and Gippsland Shires with strategic input from Parks Australia and Tourism Australia.
- Marketing and presenting Australia's Coastal Wilderness to the target market is potentially worth millions of dollars for the regional economy.
- It is an economic opportunity that promises to infiltrate and be shared across the community on a broader and more sustainable basis than logging.
- If the Bermagui State Forest that forms the northern gateway to Australia's Coastal Wilderness is logged, there will be a loss of environmental integrity that will no doubt compromise the delivery of the tourism product we are trying to sell.

It doesn't make economic sense to log in this forest!

