

Dear Peter Garrett

Within the last fortnight a very large flock (possibly up to 1000) of migratory Swift Parrots have been feeding on blossoms of the large spotted gums in Bermagui State Forest and in other areas in the coastal forests of NSW. These birds are listed on the endangered species lists of both the Commonwealth and NSW Governments. Forests NSW meanwhile is planning to log three compartments of this forest, in the very area that the parrots are feeding.

Some of these parrots have always come through the coastal forests in past years, but not in large numbers. It is thought that they are here in large flocks this year because the drought and the Victorian bushfires have reduced the availability of suitable foods on their usual more westerly route.

ForestsNSW has recently logged and burnt two compartments - one predominantly of spotted gums - on the other side of the northern and western approaches to Bermagui and left them in an ugly blackened mess. The compartments drain into a Long Swamp, the Bermagui Nature Reserve and the Batemans Marine Park areas of Black Lagoon/Wallaga Lake.

These spotted gums are Bermagui icons. This forest is right on the edge of Bermagui, much used by locals and featured in the tourist promotion for the town, it is the northern gateway to Martin Ferguson's Coastal Wilderness Landscape region, and the Gulaga and Biamanga Aboriginal Boards of Management have proposed to the NSW Government that it is of significance to the Aboriginal people and should be part of a nature reserve linking the two sacred mountains, Gulaga and Mumbulla.

We are told that ForestsNSW has no alternatives as it has only 4 years worth of old growth forest left - just one shocking piece of evidence of serious mismanagement under the Regional Forest Agreement regime that will be addressed further in comments on the interim report from the EPBC Act review.

I understand that the Tasmanian Government, notwithstanding the Wielangta decision, has been putting considerable resources into conserving the Tasmanian forests in which the Swift Parrot breeds. Surely their migratory feeding grounds are just as important to the parrot's survival. As they are to that of many other creatures.

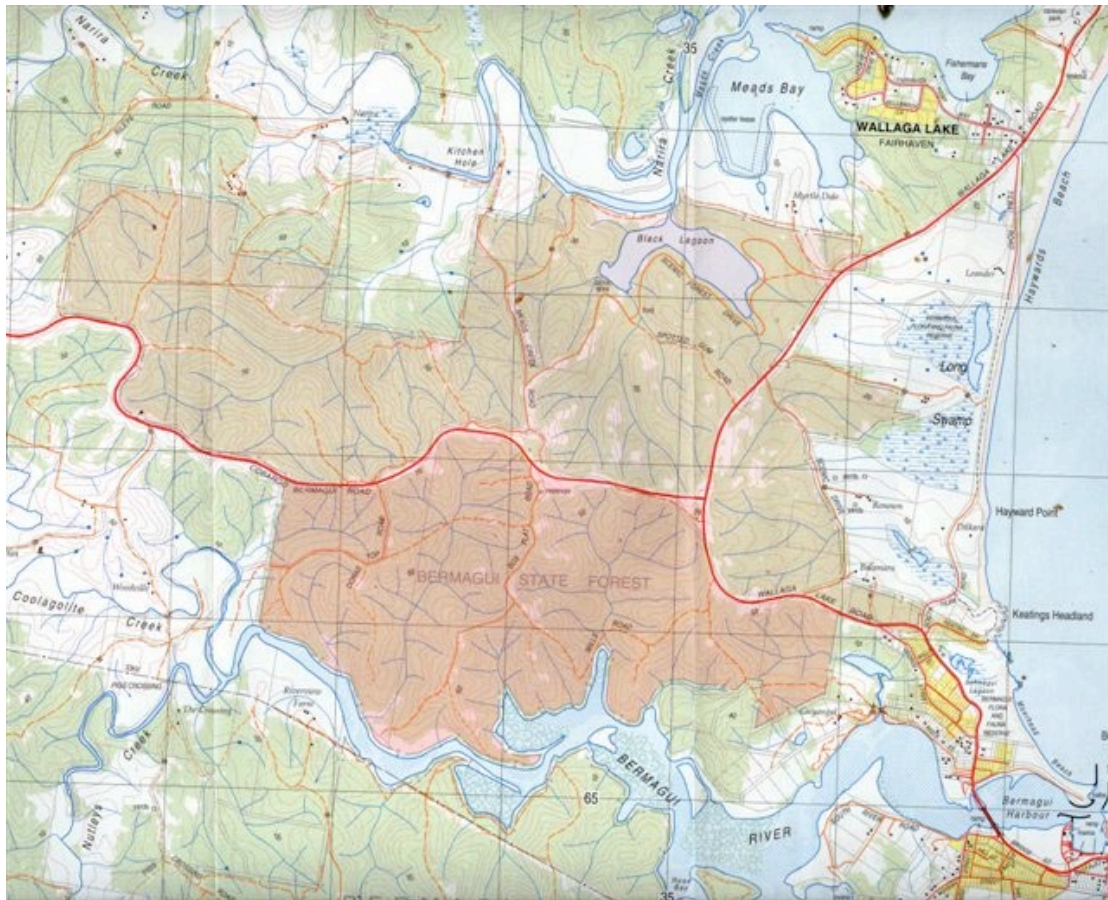
Could you please take urgent action with the NSW Government to stop this logging?

yours sincerely  
Heather Kenway  
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Attached photos:

1. Bermagui SF map, showing relationship to the town, the Nature Reserve, and Black Lagoon; the forest to be logged is on the northern and eastern

side of the Cobargo and Wallaga Lake Roads; the already logged compartments are to the south and west of those roads.



2. Bermagui spotted gum walk from the Sapphire Coast Tourism publicity for Bermagui;



3. Bermagui forest burnt, from Bermagui SF compartment 2005 logged and burnt 2008-09 (on the southern side of the road to Cobargo);



4. Swift Parrot photographed by Max Sutcliffe at Nelsons Beach, Mimosa Rocks NP, south of Bermagui; These birds are eating the flowers of *Monotoca elliptica*, (Tree Broom-heath) but had been on Spotted Gum, Banksia, a rough-barked eucalypt sapling (possibly Bangalay) and had also been eating lerps.

