

11 February 2010

The Hon Greg Hunt MP
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Greg,

“SILENCING THE FORESTS”

I wrote to you a while ago expressing my concern for the Forests of SE NSW and you responded to me: “anything I can do”, which was much appreciated. I have made a ‘home’ 5.30-minute movie which I hope you will be able to view in Quicktime. Camera clicks in the audio indicate how silent a logged forest is.

I sent a copy of this movie to Dr M Kelly. Recent surveys found that most residents of SE NSW hope for forest security.

On their behalf, I asked him to urgently introduce a Bill in the Parliament revoking past logging contracts between South East Fibre Exports and Forests NSW.

Logging activities are due to recommence in the Mumbulla, Murrah, Tanja and Bermagui State Forests in March, 2010. Forests NSW indicated they would take 10 trees from the ‘cathedral of trees’ at the entrance to Bermagui. This ‘cathedral’ is beautiful for everyone, we all drive under it and it should be untouched. Once it is logged, it will be too late.

Forests NSW admitted to me that they could not predict the impact of their ‘thinning’ operations on the environment because only time would tell. By then, none of us will be here! We cannot continue the devastation, in the way which this movie indicates, and expect that everything will be OK in the forests.

Yours sincerely

Dr Bronte Somerset