

**LETTER: FROM: STEVE HARTLEY. ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY
16.08.2012 TO JAMIE SHAW RE: TANJA FOREST KOALAS. COMMUNITY MEETING
REQUEST FOR ONSIGHT MEETING IN TANJA FOREST.**

Jamie

Thanks for your email regarding Tanja State Forest and for providing a copy of the community meetings resolutions.

As you may be aware, Forests NSW operations in Tanja State Forest are subject to the conditions established under the Integrated Forestry Operations Approval (IFOA) for the Eden region. The IFOA includes provisions that are designed to minimise the impact of logging on threatened species and their habitat, including koalas. The IFOA for the Eden region can be found at:

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/forestagreements/agreementsIFOAs.htm>

As you may also be aware, the NSW Government was recently successful in obtaining funding from the Commonwealth Government's Biodiversity Fund for a project entitled "Corridors and Key Habitat for Koalas in the NSW Far South Coast". This project seeks to establish a strategic approach to protection and improvement of koala habitat in the region. Information regarding this project can be found on the Australian Government's website at:

<http://www.environment.gov.au/cleanenergyfuture/biodiversity-fund/pro...>

As part of this project Forests NSW and the Office of Environment and Heritage have agreed to revised survey provisions for koalas, with survey work currently being undertaken in the area. While this survey work is not yet complete, this work has identified evidence of koalas in part of Tanja State Forest. Based on this information, I understand Forests NSW has suspended logging operations in Tanja State Forest. Following finalisation of these surveys, the Environment Protection Authority, the Office of Environment and Heritage and Forests NSW will consider the results from this work and use this information to develop updated koala protection measures.

In response to your request to meet, I suggest that this meeting occur after the koala survey work is finalised. I have also forwarded a copy of your email to the person in the Office of Environment and Heritage who is responsible for coordinating the survey work so that they are aware of your request. In the interim, I trust this information is of assistance.

Sincerely Steve Hartley
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