

Resolution from the Forests for Climate Forum: Experts Recommend End of Australian Native Forest Logging at national Forests and Climate Forum 13.08.2011

The national Forest and Climate Forum focussed on putting Forest and Carbon facts on the table. It attracted a host of renowned presenters and participants including globally renowned carbon scientist Professor Brendan Mackey of ANU and Dr Pep Canadell of CSIRO who is also Executive Director of the Global Carbon Project.

A resolution to end native forest logging in Australia was passed at the well attended and vibrant Forests and Climate forum which met at John Curtin School of Medical Research at ANU, Canberra, 13th August 2011.

The following resolution was passed by the group:

"The Forests and Climate Forum calls on Australian governments to end logging of native forests* and secure their protection for environmental, climate, economic, industry and community benefits.

"The forum welcomed the new findings that we can make substantial additional cuts to our greenhouse gas emissions by ending logging in native forests in Australia.

"The Government must urgently review graphic new evidence presented of the devastation from the 2009 fires of regrowth forests and plantations, and the reduced intensity and increased fire suppression in old growth forests protected in national parks. It is clear from this new evidence that fires are far more severe in heavily logged forests than in protected old forests".

Other attendees included bushfire expert Chris Taylor (a Senior Lecturer at Melbourne University), Dr Graeme Hamilton, environment lawyers Vanessa Bleyer, Andrew Macintosh, Kirsty Ruddock, Natasha Hammond-Deakin, economists Dr Judith Ajani and Naomi Edwards, Dr Mike Kelly represented the Federal Government on a panel shared with Greens Senator Lee Rhiannon, Forest Sustainability Certification and forest industry members, key conservationists fresh from recent forest negotiations like Gemma Tillack. Virginia Young offered the international perspective on conservation. There was also Dr Denis Saunders of WWF and the Wentworth Group and Corey Watts of the Climate Institute. Campaigners from Market for Change and GetUp also addressed the group of conservationists and community members attending.