

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

Bega District News: "More than trees" Prue Acton 02.10.09

The beauty of a forest is more than a thin avenue of trees welcoming visitors.

In the case of the Bermagui forests at the entrance to the Australian Coastal Wilderness Landscape, if you go looking, you can drive down Spotted Gum Road to Black Swamp and stop there to look back to Gulaga Mountain, a magical sight.

But not now as the road is closed whilst 60-100 year old spotted gums are logged and this delicious area is defaced, denuded, degraded for years to come.

Just look at the map of this area; it is a mass of creeks draining into Black Lagoon with remnant rainforest from pre-logging times.

It takes at least 80 years before water hungry new trees stop sucking up the precious little rain we now have.

And when, and one day we will, have a major downpour all that exposed soil will end up in the lagoon and on to the rest of this protected Marine Park and the oyster supplying lake below.

This whole area right down to Bega River should be protected from the logging industry and allowed to restore.

Yes, Forest NSW has oversold its wood supply, and yes, yields and prices are down.

But no, the public's interest lies in the future: valuing forests for their beauty, as living carbon stores, as clean water supplies, and as repositories of the unique wildlife, plants and insects that is Australia's legacy.

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