

Vale Sam the Koala.

As a victim of Victorian bushfires, Sam the Koala captured our hearts and worldwide attention. His passing is sad indeed. However, his mates in the Mumbulla Ranges, four sections of Bermagui Forest and Guluga (Mt Dromedary) will die over the next few months due to logging activities. Koalas used to be abundant in this area and flocks of endangered Swift parrots have also recently been seen having lost habitat elsewhere.

To me this equation seems thus: we are losing our native flora and fauna; our natural carbon storers and water conserving beautiful old growth forests are being demolished; the commercial value of logging them is illogical. By permitting persistent logging, the State Government is encouraging aridification and desertification in one of the most beautiful parts of this country. Plantation forests can provide enough timber for our domestic use.

Do we want spotty gum sawlogs or natural habitats for koalas? We must stop the slaughter of our native flora and fauna. If we do not, our children's children will only be able to see Sam's mates and their habitats in picture books, not in their natural environment.

Kind regards

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