

LETTER TO EDITOR

"Not green enough" Prue Acton published 17/01/10 Canberra Times

Tony Abbott announced his new environment pitch last night, appropriately as this is the Year of Biodiversity:

Murray – Darling Rivers: yes, fencing off riparian zones is over due.

And a "Green army": revegetating clapped out landscapes.

The National Farmers Federation and some conservationists will applaud you.

But what's the point if you don't stop degradation and deforestation? Everyone recognises the dire consequences in undeveloped countries; why not here?

We have cleared 75% of woodlands and 50% of forests and consequently species losses are endemic? In times of drought there is no place to go for even once common species of koala, laughing kookaburra's and Swift Parrots.

Do any pollies really understand what part bio-diversity plays in a resilient ecology? Do they get the changes logging in Australia's forests makes -from wet to dry - affecting climate, water supplies, die back and bushfires?

So if Tony Abbott is serious he would add that clearing woodlands and logging forests, primarily for low value woodchips, must stop.

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