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The Editor,
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Dear Sir

State Forest research shows logging does affect water quality

State Forest representatives are claiming that scientific research shows that the logging they are proposing in the South East will not have significant impacts on water quality and quantity.

In fact the research they are relying on shows nothing of the sort.

The purpose of their research was to find ways to reduce sediment movement and soil loss during logging operations.

The research did not discover ways to eliminate soil loss and degradation of water quality, just reduce it.

It did not deal at all with the impacts of the sedimentation and degraded water quality on stream ecology.

For example, the research paper by Croke and Hairsine (2005) states clearly that logging activities will have adverse impacts on water quality and in-stream ecology.

The paper by Cornish (1989) states that there were statistically significant increases in stream turbidity resulting from logging. It then goes on to say that that these increases “would have no effect on water values or stream ecology”, but gives no evidence to support this statement.

Resident of Wyndham who are concerned about water quality, Wapengo Oyster farmers worried about impacts on their livelihoods, residents of Bega and Tathra concerned about damage to the Bega River wetlands should not be misled.

Richard Blakers