

Letter published in Canberra Time Lois Katz, 10.12.2010

Australia's Climate Minister Greg Combet is in Mexico attending an international climate forum. As we now know, our aged native trees are our best defence against the carbon that humans constantly release into the atmosphere. Our native eucalyptus tree is the most carbon dense storage tree in the world. However, these trees take about 250 years to reach maximum proficiency at storing carbon. It makes no sense to cut down our old growth forests and then claim that by planting new trees the balance is maintained.

Logging companies are now lobbying for preferential treatment and demanding a massive break from the actual environmental cost of their tree logging. They want the government to grant them an exemption from the true amount of carbon that is released when an old tree is cut down.

We must stop listening to big money and deal with the urgency of the situation that the world is in. As we pump more and more carbon into the air, we are cutting down more and more carbon storing trees and the effects are being felt all over the world. The weather is getting more erratic and many, many people are already suffering from the effects of climate change.

I hope and pray that common sense finally prevails and we start to look after Earth, our only home.