

## **Subject: For morinokoe campaign, Anja Light 16<sup>th</sup> June 2010**

Hello everyone,

I hope this finds you well. There is exciting news building in Australia regarding native forests that I think should be shared on the morinokoe web page. If anyone has anything to add to this, or clarify these points - please let us know. Nao and Toyo, it would be great if you could pass this on to other groups and friends in Japan who have been involved in this campaign over the years to give them some good news!

- 1) It appears that Japanese timber purchasers have significantly increased pressure on Australian timber companies to source either FSC certified timber, or plantation timber. This is widely regarded as the main reason for a massive downturn in demand for Australian woodchips and therefore profits for Australian timber companies. Now, timber companies (like Gunns) now 'reaching out' to conservation groups to ask for help in restructuring the industry completely. This is a massive shift. I believe our efforts with the recent morinokoe campaign in Japan, and continual efforts over the past 20 years to raise awareness in Japan about the Australian woodchip industry has contributed to that shift. Congratulations to all.
- 2) New polls recently commissioned by Senator Bob Brown show that the vast majority of Australians are against native forest logging.
  - nearly 8 out of 10 Australians support a STOP to native forest logging in light of climate change and carbon storage.
  - nearly 9 out of 10 Australians under 35 support a STOP to native forest logging in light of climate change and carbon storage.
  - more than 7 out of 10 Australians in regional areas support a STOP to native forest logging in light of climate change and carbon storage

This is adding impetus to a final push to end all logging of native forests in Australia.

I believe that it is this combination of events that is causing a breakthrough: timber companies are seeing their industry in crisis largely as a result of shifting consumer demand, especially in Japan (that we have been part of) and are coming back to the table with environment groups and the majority view of the Australian people. Pressure is growing on our politicians to reflect this shift of direction in finally demanding an end to logging of native forests.

We are not quite there yet (logging still continues in koala habitat in SE NSW), but I think there is a great opportunity for a wonderful outcome in protecting all native forests and their dependent communities (human and non-human) in Australia. Wouldn't it be great to be able to announce this in time for the COP10 biodiversity conference in Nagoya in October?

Warm regards,  
Anja Light  
Actions Speak Louder Than Words