

**Letter to the Editor Bega District News: Chipmill Boss wrong on Roads
26.01.2011**

Dear Editor,

Peter Mitchell (BDN 21/1/11) writes in praise of the road network through Tanja State Forest used in last week's Bega to Tathra Bridge Bike Bash and wonders "how many made the connection with the timber industry that constructs and maintains these roads."

As General Manager of the Eden chipmill, Mr Mitchell should be well aware that Forests NSW, whose woodchipping operations in the south east cost NSW taxpayers roughly \$5million each year, only maintains those roads because it has to keep them nice for the heavy logging machinery and logtrucks that are scheduled to come in and woodchip Tanja State Forest later this year. When the log trucks and machinery have finished with them, the roads will be a lot less praiseworthy.

And far from making the area safer from bushfire, after logging, a forest becomes a greater fire hazard. Its drier, denser, even aged regrowth is far more likely to pose a fire hazard than an older moister forest.

Yours sincerely

Harriett Swift

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