



Our reference: MD13/5208

Ms Bronte Somerset  
Co-covenor  
South East Region Conservation Alliance Inc.  
PO Box 724  
NAROOMA NSW 2546

Dear Ms Somerset

I refer to your email to the Minister for the Environment, the Hon Robyn Parker MP, about issues related to the draft *Protection of the Environment Operations (General) Amendment (Native Forest Bio-material) Regulation 2013*. Your email was referred to the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and I have been asked to reply.

I appreciate the time that you and petitioners have taken to share your concerns. The issues raised are consistent with those being considered for the amended Regulation.

The EPA is reviewing submissions received during the consultation period and we will continue to provide information on the progress of this proposal on its website at:  
[www.epa.nsw.gov.au/licensing/natforestbiofuel.htm](http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/licensing/natforestbiofuel.htm).

I would like to assure you that the EPA is aware of the community's strong desire to see koalas protected during logging. The EPA has invested significant resources in investigating and assisting to manage potential impacts on koalas and the environment more broadly.

Logging operations are conducted under a private native forestry property vegetation plan (PNF PVP) approved by the EPA in November 2012. Under the private native forestry framework all such operations are required to comply with specific conditions outlined in the Private Native Forestry Code of Practice for Southern NSW (the PNF Code).

The PNF Code sets clear requirements that landholders and their contractors must meet to ensure threatened species and their habitat are protected. This includes identifying whether threatened species have been recorded at or near a property to be logged in the NSW Wildlife Atlas database as well as protecting forest features where site evidence of threatened species is found. The EPA is diligent in ensuring that such information is forwarded to landholders and their contractors.

In addition to ensuring third party information is considered, the EPA also may complete a number of its own independent site inspections, including koala searches, throughout the course of logging operations.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Gary Whytcross'. To the right of the signature, the date '21 November 2013' is written in black ink.

**GARY WHYTCROSS**  
**Director South**  
**Environment Protection Authority**

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