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From: harriett swift <[harr...@savetheforests.org.au](mailto:harr...@savetheforests.org.au)>  
Subject: letter - Logging adds to fire risk

Letter to the editor

**Logging adds to fire risk**

Peter Rutherford's letter (Magnet 16/8) omitted the fact that he is a long time employee of the Eden woodchipping industry, so it is not surprising that he has a particular perspective on native forest management.

His argument, that logging reduces fire risk, simply does not stand up.

Indeed, logging increases fire risk, starting with the large quantities of highly flammable debris left behind every logging operation.

But it doesn't stop there. Increased fire risk lasts far beyond the following bushfire season; it's there for the next 45 or more years.

Forests in this region remain more fire prone today because of the intensive logging from the first decades of the woodchipping industry and will be so for many years to come.

Even-aged young trees of uniform height in a dense, dry regrowth forest are always a greater fire hazard than a mature moist forest. Even when it inevitably ends, the legacy of the woodchipping industry will be more fire prone forests in this region for decades to come.

Next time Mr Rutherford writes a letter like this, I think he owes it to readers to declare his interest in the woodchipping industry.

Sincerely

Harriett Swift  
Convener, Chipstop campaign against woodchipping

***Between 2,500 and 3,000 trees from SE NSW and East Gippsland are cut down every working day to supply the Eden chipmill***

**CHIPSTOP** campaign against woodchipping the SE forests, PO Box 797 Bega NSW 2550

Australia, <http://www.chipstop.savetheforests.org.au>

**CHIPSTOP** on YouTube <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0vJuZya1X00>