

MEDIA RELEASE:

**RESPONSE TO CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS ON THE EDEN REGIONAL FOREST AGREEMENT**

The Eden Regional Forest Agreement should be cancelled because:

- it failed to take account of the critical role for native forests in averting climate change;
- it failed to take account of the available plantation timber resource, even though it was first and foremost a timber supply agreement. It is completely unnecessary when there is sufficient plantation wood available for virtually all current domestic and export purposes;
- it failed to take account of the deleterious impacts of intensive logging on the quality and quantity of water supplies;
- it has not protected wildlife from the impacts of logging. Intensive logging condemns countless birds and animals to death and torture, either instantly through trauma or post logging predation, or by slow and painful starvation due to loss of shelter and food.

If there is one reason to retain a Regional Forest Agreement in place, it is perhaps as a framework within which to quantify the greenhouse benefits of ending native forest logging, one of the biggest greenhouse polluters. In the event that Governments recognise the necessity to end native forest logging, it could serve as a framework to measure the carbon retained and removed from the atmosphere as consequence of that wise decision.

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