

## **MEDIA RELEASE South East Forest Rescue, 15.10.2010**

### **SPECIAL PROTECTION ZONES LOGGED**

Documents have come to light verifying conservation groups claims that the Tantawangalo State Forest should not have been logged.

The Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water map shows clearly these compartments were designated Special Protection Zones for water catchment.

The Commonwealth Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry states: The CAR Reserve System covers approximately one third of the entire region and about 56 per cent of the region's public land. Significant additions to dedicated reserves include:  
\* The link between Tantawangalo and Yurammie State Forests which provides a corridor from the escarpment to the coastal forests;

These compartments in Tantawangalo, like many parts of State forests in south eastern New South Wales, have been considered part of the National Reserve System. This NRS is taken to the international table by Australia to demonstrate Australia's commitment to climate change action, biodiversity conservation and protection.

"There is a risk of serious impacts on water quality and stream bank erosion if significant rainfall events occur after logging," said Lisa Stone, spokesperson for South East Forest Rescue. "These compartments are in the catchment of the Bega Valley Shires diversion weir. Any increased sediment could impact on water diversion to the Tantawangalo-Kiah water supply scheme, which supplies the southern half of the BVshire."

Forests NSW stated the reason they lifted the Special Protection Zones was that there would be 'no permissible negative impact on catchment values.'

Under the Forestry Act 1916, the objects are to 'maintain and improve the soil resources and water catchment capabilities of crown timber lands.' There is no mention in the Act of 'permissible negative impacts'.

"Forests NSW decided to abolish the Special Protection Zones to log these compartments," said Ms Stone. "Then they breached their regulations and logged the rocky outcrops. This agency is out of control."

DECCW is continuing to investigate these further breaches.

South East Forest Rescue 'Stoppin the Choppin'  
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