

<MEDIA RELEASE:> OLD GROWTH LOGGED BECAUSE FORESTS NSW RAN OUT OF BATTERIES 19 Oct 2010

Forests NSW logging practices are again being investigated, after the discovery of the logging of High Conservation Old Growth forest and destruction of the habitat of threatened and endangered native animals.

The damage, at Yambulla State Forest, between Bega and Eden, is the fourth time this month that the state agency has come under investigation on the south coast.

"This Tier Two offence is of a very serious nature," said Lisa Stone, spokesperson for South East Forest Rescue. "We have requested that DECCW prosecute both the logging contractor and Forests NSW immediately for this damage."

Forests NSW stated the damage occurred because the State Forest worker ran out of batteries on a GPS, and has warned the SFO to undertake 'to pack additional batteries and request assistance when required.'

"This simply is not good enough, particularly in the light of the Tasmanian Agreement to protect High Conservation Value old-growth, " said Ms Stone. "Not only have Forests NSW been logging unmapped old growth, we now find they are logging their own mapped HCVs."

Yambulla State Forest provides a home for many threatened and endangered animals such as sooty owls and yellow-bellied gliders.

"The amount of breaches this month show that Forests NSW are not adhering to their laws," said Ms Stone. "If a private person were to do this on private land they would be fined hundreds of thousands of dollars."

"The time has come to follow Tasmania's lead and phase out native forest logging altogether. It has worked in the Redgums, its going to work in Tasmania, it can work here."

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Breach of Eden IFOA cl 10

10. Protection of rare old growth forest communities, rainforest and rare forest ecosystems

(1) This clause applies to any area that is, or is within:

- (a) a rare forest ecosystem;
- (b) a rare old growth forest community;
- (c) rainforest; or
- (d) a rainforest exclusion zone.

Prohibition on specified forestry activities

(2) No specified forestry activities are to be carried out in any area to which this clause applies.

Harvesting machinery

(3) Harvesting machinery is not to be used for the purposes of cutting and removing timber or forest products operations in any area to which this clause applies.

Tree felling

(4) No tree is to be felled into any area to which this clause applies. If any tree falls into an area to which this clause applies, no part of the tree may be removed from that area.

South East Forest Rescue

'Stoppin the Choppin'

www.myspace.com/southeastforestrescue PO Box 899 MORUYA NSW 2537