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South East Forest Rescue, 3rd March 2011

Scientific Reports Recommend a Halt to Native Forest Logging

In the Garnaut Report 2011, Transforming Rural Land Use, released yesterday the CSIRO estimated that if native forest harvesting were to cease, there is a technical potential for abatement of 47 million tonnes of carbon dioxide each year from 2010 to 2050.

The report goes on to state if the Tasmanian agreement proceeds it could deliver positive climate change mitigation benefits.

South East Forest Rescue have estimated that over 26 million tonnes of carbon dioxide is emitted each year from the logging of native forest on the south coast.

In light of these findings Lisa Stone from South East Forest Rescue is calling for an end to native forest logging.

“The rate of native forest logging has exceeded levels which can be permanently sustained,” said Ms Stone. “There is no long-term future for an industry that isn’t sustainable, destroys the ecological integrity of the forests and contributes significantly to the catastrophic effects of climate change.”

Professor Garnaut further stated that carbon pricing would not be enough to halt the rate of biodiversity loss and even stronger measures need to be put in place.

Dr Judith Ajani’s paper which also was released this week finds that 82% of Australia’s wood needs are now being met by the plantation sector and calls for Australia having a coherent forest and wood products industry policy where each land sector is allocated to the job it does best: plantations for wood products and native forests for biodiversity conservation/carbon stores/water.

“It is not enough to merely say native forestry is sustainable, it must be backed up with rigorous scientific data which Forests NSW, Vic Forests and Forestry Tasmania has failed to provide,” said Ms Stone. “Our hope is that, in line with Professor Garnaut’s recommendations and Dr Ajani’s findings, the NSW Government will reach agreement on protecting native

forests while creating sustainable timber industries based on plantation sources.”

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Garnaut Report available
at:

<<http://www.garnautreview.org.au/update-2011/update-papers/up4-transfo...>>.

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