

MEDIA RELEASE: MINISTERS DECISION CORRUPT- BAGO YBG POPULATION DESTRUCTION LISA STONE 19 DEC 2011

Conservation Groups Call for ICAC Inquiry Into Corrupt Decision

Forests NSW the state-run logging agency has pressured Ministers Hodgkinson and Parker into changing the law to allow them to log endangered populations.

Yellow-Bellied Gliders of the Bago Plateau were listed as endangered in 2008.

Forests NSW have pressured and made the Minister change the law so Forests NSW could log their habitat.

'This decision makes absolutely no sense' said Ms Lisa Stone spokesperson for South East Forest Rescue. 'Why were they listed as endangered in the first place? Because their habitat was logged.'

Based on the state and territory listings the largest increases in numbers of threatened species nationally are occurring on the south coast of New South Wales. Change in status of listed species is concentrated in sub-regions along the east coast. All species have as reasons for listing or decline habitat loss, fragmentation due to road construction, intensive timber harvesting and altered fire regimes.*

Only 320 people work in native forest woodchipping industry and FNSW are currently running at a \$14.6 M loss. Nippon paper/SEFE eden woodchip mill make a huge profit.

'The time is over for the business as usual approach,' said Lisa Stone spokesperson for South East Forest Rescue. 'This decision is so blatantly corrupt it should be the subject of an ICAC inquiry.'

The photos were taken in 2006 when Forests NSW had just left logging compartment 116, Bago State Forest, east of Tumbarrumba, on the Bago Plateau.

Kind regards
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*(Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts 2009, Assessment of Australia's Terrestrial Biodiversity 2008, Report prepared by the Biodiversity Assessment Working Group of the National Land and Water Resources Audit for the Australian Government, Canberra.)

