

## **IFOA DISCUSSION PAPER. LOIS KATZ. 07.04.2014**

As a member of a native wildlife rescue organisation, I wish to express my deep concern that logging is still allowed in our native forests. Australia is losing its native wildlife at a faster rate than any other developed nation. One problem that wildlife carers have is finding suitable spots to release rehabilitated wildlife because the native habitat is shrinking. Why should a diminishing native landscape matter to humans?

By now everyone should know that climate change is affecting our weather. Record periods of extreme dry, extreme wet and extreme heat and extreme cold are being recorded. These are facts. Another fact is that mature native eucalyptus trees are the greatest carbon sinks in the world. We humans are emitting more and more carbon into the atmosphere every year and yet, we are logging our best defence against excessive carbon. As we cut down more trees, the remaining trees cannot keep pace with the added carbon emissions and the whole problem accelerates

Trees store water and their roots help prevent erosion. The landslides that are occurring around the world are in record number. The most recent report in the northwest of the United States of a mudslide that killed people and destroyed a town occurred near a logging site. The people who logged this area ignored a restriction and logged beyond the legal limit by 100 metres. My point is this: With the small number of logging site inspectors allotted by the State of New South Wales, it is impossible to monitor what dozens of people are doing on logging sites. Hundreds of breaches have been proven.

Another point is why is the State of New South Wales still willing to subsidise logging to the amount of \$15 million a year? This amount is in the NSW Auditor General's reports. The people who are working in the logging industry have many skills. Surely these skills could be transferred to other industries; industries that have a future. The taxpayer money that is being used to prop up the logging industry should be used to help these workers find work in other areas where their skills are needed, or, if necessary, to fund retraining. Many jobs in traditional employment are fading out and new markets are opening. We need to move with the times and help people adjust to the changes.

Our natural treasures are famous throughout the world but, to our shame, in NSW our koala is listed as 'vulnerable'. Tourism is a huge business in NSW. Let's protect the future of our environment and our tourist industry and save our forests and our native animals. Please, stop the logging for woodchips in our state forests.

Lois Katz