



# South East Region Conservation Alliance Inc

www.serca.org.au

contact@serca.org.au

PO Box 724 Narooma NSW 2546 AUSTRALIA

## TO THE NSW ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY

SERCA's response to an invitation from you to attend an information session for environmental groups on the draft Coastal Integrated Forestry Operations Approvals (IFOAs) at Narooma on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> June.

*We are so disappointed with these changes to the IFOAs as well as the RFA changes recently proposed, especially the processes imposed on us with your sham consultations, that SERCA will not be attending your information sessions so that you can justify your so-called 'consultations'.*

*We find it completely incomprehensible that the EPA, which is established to protect our environment, clearly appears to be aligned with this Government in sacrificing our precious environmental values to fill the over-committed wood supply agreements negotiated by NSW Forestry Corporation, against the public good and the public interest. The report of the Natural Resources Commission clearly states that "it is not possible to meet the Government's commitments around both environmental values and wood supply" yet you plough ahead to sacrifice those values you should be protecting on our behalf—shame on you. Yet again this is the fox in the henhouse.*

*We would like to invite your senior management to come down to the South Coast and see what the grey wording of the existing IFOAs has actually allowed to happen to our forests in the Southern and Eden Management Areas. This 'new' integrated proposal spreads the destructive and illogical practices from down here up to the north coast and makes them so much worse by taking out some of the already weak protections that existed previously.*

*The worst thing our government has done with both the RFA and IFOA proposals is to totally throw out any semblance of Ecologically Sustainable Forest Management. In our view, there should be a halt to logging and your department, the NSW Forestry Corporation and our Governments properly brought to account for the destruction of our forests.*

*The new draft IFOAs implicitly acknowledge that the far south coast logging will remain the worst in the state. Other regions will catch up a little, but ours will still be the winner in the race to the bottom. These 'approvals' go against our social and environmental conscience and recognise that the damage to our precious natural environment is, and has been, a disgrace to the nation of Australia.*

*The outcome is a forgone conclusion with the new laws clearing the legal decks for the industry to go for broke while there are still some trees remaining. For decades this region has endured of the most intensive logging in the State to supply the Eden chipmill.*

*Governments should now be looking at fair and responsible ways to wind up the industry. They should stop deluding themselves and the public that our forests are a magic pudding that can keep on producing woodchips indefinitely and pretend that environmental values are being protected. By ceasing the logging of native forests, jobs for people within the industry can be transitioned into management of forests for restorative activities based on adaptive, mitigative strategies.*

*These forests belong to the people of NSW and it is no longer wise or intelligent to pursue extractive practices in light of the demise of our unique native species, the critical need to protect natural carbon stores and to recognise the need for intergenerational equity.*

*We're disgusted at the cavalier approach the Governments take to pillaging our State's natural heritage.*

**Dr Bronte Somerset**, SERCA Committee, on behalf of the South East Region Conservation Alliance Inc.

**native forests for  
beauty canopy carbon climate culture habitat heritage jobs oxygen soil water wildlife wonder**



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## SUPPORTING ORGANISATIONS

Member groups of SERCA and Great Southern Forest endorser.

Australian Association of Bush Regenerators

Australian Earth Laws Alliance

Australian Forests and Climate Alliance

Australian Plants Society

Australian Rainforest Conservation Society

Australian Wildlife Society

Bega Environment Network. Contact

Bega Valley Greens

Better Planning Network Inc.

Chipstop

Clean Energy for Eternity Inc.

Colong Foundation for Wilderness

Conservation Council ACT Region

Conservation Council of South Australia

Environment East Gippsland

Environment Victoria

Forest Media.

Four Winds

Friends of Five Forests.

Friends of Leadbeater's Possum

Friends of the Earth Australia

Friends of the Koala Inc.

Green Music Australia

Gulaga (Mt Dromedary) Protection Group.

Healesville Environment Watch Inc.

Lawyers for Forests

Montreal Goldfield

Mulong

My Environment

National Parks Association, Far South Coast Branch. NPA NSW

National Trust NSW

Nature Conservation Council NSW

North Coast Environment Council

NSW Bird Atlassers Australia Inc.

NSW Wildlife Council Inc.

Potoroo Palace

SCPA South East Producers

SEE-Change, Society, Environment and Economy

South East Forest Rescue.

Southern Forest Watchers.

Stop Arms Fairs in Eurobodalla

The Coastwatchers' Association Inc.

The Wilderness Society

Threatened Species Art Competition

Total Environment Centre

Trees for Life

Western Australia Forest Alliance

Wildlife Rescue South Coast

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