

Corunna State Forest,(Compartment 3058), near Central Tilba and Mystery Bay.

Applicable to all State Forest Logging Policy and Procedures.

Personal comment, expressing concerns about emerging issues and the ability of existing policy settings and management procedures to:

- 1) be proactive, 2) make the necessary consequent changes.

Evidence is growing that global ecosystems are experiencing unprecedented rapid changes, and many of these changes are a consequence of human commerce and industry. It is probable that the rapidity and extent of these changes will reduce the ability of these systems to provide the level and extent of many of the natural services that have allowed the development of life, and sustained it as we know it. Mixed age forest systems are prominent as vital providers of these services.

As is so frequent, we, as a species, never value a resource so highly as when it has just been depleted. At present, attempts to value the contribution that forests make to clean air, clean water, ecosystem resilience, climate mitigation are put at something less than their (highly questionable) net positive value as a source of timber and pulp. Their contribution as forest species habitat is not attempted. I believe that the natural services provided by mixed age forests will be regarded as absolutely priceless by 2050. Unfortunately, logging as practised now cannot be remedied by undisturbed regrowth for at least 100 plus years. To approach the species diversity present today at Corunna will need 150 plus years.

I urge that a halt is called on the intended logging at Corunna. There is sufficient, more than sufficient, scientific, peer reviewed study available about the lasting damaging effects of current forest harvesting practice throughout NSW to justify invoking the precautionary principle.

Protection of the Environment Administration Act 1991(NSW): Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth)

We need to stop, step back, and review our priorities. Let it not be said of us in future, in recrimination, 'that we knew, but did not heed'.

And let us hope that in the meantime we are not in critical need for the "free" services that forests provide, for we have no means of replacing them.

Chris Jones,

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