

DPI FISHERIES REPORT IMPACT ON CORUNNA AND TILBA TILBA ICOLL LAKES. ELIZABETH WALTON. CORUNNA FOREST PROTECTION GROUP. ELIZABETH WALTON. 16.09.2018

Dear Justin and Julie/Batemans Bay Marine Park Authority

CC

- Andrew Constance/Member Bega
- Eurobodalla Council/Mayor
- EPA
- EDO NSW
- Leanne Atkinson/ALP Candidate

I refer to your email dated 7th August in which you undertook to look into the ICOLL reports I submitted to you which highlight community concerns for the impact of proposed Forestry Corp logging on the fragile ecosystems of Corunna Lake and Tilba Tilba Lake.

As you know, Corunna compartment 3058 fronts directly on to the foreshore of Corunna Lake. The compartment is a watershed that drains into both lakes. There is a strong history of toxic algal blooms leading to fish kills in these lakes and the reports I submitted detail the scientific basis upon which this process works.

I was shocked when speaking with Forestry staff that they had no knowledge of these reports or these processes.

Forestry state that a 50m buffer zone is all that is required by the Marine Park Authority for the preservation of these FRAGILE identified waterways and that therefore this is all they are required to do.

I am in receipt of further extensive ecologist reports that highlight the concerns community have over the status of these waterways, including recommendations that this harvest should NOT go ahead. These reports are filed for your reference here:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1Pk2t4oZHVzMh0rY4n-XSaDeivmyIs3f1>

I refer now to your own report to council (copy attached) in response to the Rural Lands Planning Proposal, stating the impact that terrestrial disruption has on waterways. I am told however by Forestry Corp that your advice to their agency is that there is no known threat.

Can you please explain to me - with great urgency, given that the community was told TODAY that harvesting is scheduled to commence TOMORROW - how your advice to Council differs apparently so vastly from your advice provided to Forestry?

The community has requested Forestry delay the harvest to the cooler months of autumn to offset the danger zone during the warmer lake temperature months. The response from Forestry was to schedule the works for immediate start.

I really do not feel this delay is an unreasonable request, given the volume of citizens of this region reliant upon tourism-based jobs, versus the few people employed by the forestry industry.

The very good question of course remains, who will be responsible in the event of a general fish kill in a Marine Park Sanctuary, the likelihood of which is increased dramatically by the timing of the harvest, which is predictable based on your own reports and others.

I await your urgent response.

Elizabeth Walton