

## **MEDIA RELEASE: Response by Harriett Swift to Bega District News article re Bermagui's 'cathedral of trees' 01.10.09**

So, "there are plenty more trees.....after all, it is not as if there aren't enough other trees around. Why can't they find all the trees they need in the forest away from the eyes of locals and tourists?" (BDN29/9/09)

Each one of the 2,500 to 3,000 trees cut down every working day to supply the Eden woodchip mill is special to someone or something. For many, such as the forest animals, it is a matter of life or death. For those not killed instantly when the tree is felled, or by predators that we so often see circling around logging operations, their fate is usually slow starvation. For the lucky ones, they simply cannot breed and their species ceases to survive in the area.

The BDN editorial exhorts Forests NSW to apply the "out of sight, out of mind" principle to the trees at the northern entrance to Bermagui.

Well, by and large that is exactly what FNSW has been doing over the entire region. That is why the logging in remoter places such as on the escarpment or down near the Victorian border, is far, far worse than we see closer to human settlement. That is why they leave "visual protection strips" along roadsides. That is why the public is banned (possible fines over \$2,000) from entering forests where logging is taking place.

That is why the Regional Forest Agreement, far from being founded on "science" was substantially a trade off between forests which could be quietly sacrificed for those which had a pressure group to campaign for them. FNSW spends over a million dollars a year on propaganda (not counting media staff). Does anyone seriously think they would risk that investment for one stupid decision would actually allow the public to see what they do?

Would anyone like to have a bet with me about whether FNSW will actually log those trees?