

LETTER To: editor.magnet@ruralpress.com

Subject: Letter to the Editor

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Native forests are the lungs of the earth. They provide clean air for our health by taking in and storing carbon. We don't see most native forests as they are quietly doing their jobs, just as the lungs in our bodies are quietly doing theirs. We can't see our lungs, but certainly know when they are being compromised. So whilst you may not be subjected to the sight of a logged coop, the damage to the atmosphere is still happening.

It is wonderful that so many people are now aware of the importance of trees, and they are being planted by the millions. This is good news for our descendants – about 150 years down the track. It takes trees about that long to mature enough to be able to capture a significant amount of carbon to help clean the air of our pollutants.

Up to about 200 years ago, people hadn't made much of an impact on air quality. But, with the industrial revolution, that all changed. Mankind figured out how to use fossil fuels for energy and the carbon build up started.

There are now more people on the earth than have lived throughout all recorded time. We are pumping massive amounts of carbon into the air at the same time we are depleting what is left of the earth's mature native forests. If both of these practices continue, it is a recipe for disaster.

The world has shrunk. Ripple effects of actions are felt all over the planet. Thankfully, some people are taking strong action to fight to save our home, Earth; to help her to become clean and healthy.

Cattle companies Bertin, JBS-Friboi, Marfrig and Minerva, four of the world's largest meat producers, have banned Amazon cattle because the cattle industry in that area is causing the destruction of tropical forests.

The Rudd government is asking other countries to stop logging in their native forests in order to help combat climate change. Why are Rudd and the government allowing it here? In closing, I call on Mike Kelly, MP to respond to my September open letter to him regarding logging in our native forests.

Lois Katz

16 Edna Drive
Tathra NSW

6494-5887