

From: Dan Katz

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Subject: **Re Peter Mitchell's letter**

Date: Thu, 10 Feb 2011 00:08:47 +0000

Dear Editors,

I don't normally respond to letters from the upper crust of the logging industry, because they usually use their slant on science to justify making money by plundering our valuable natural resources, and a great majority of the scientists of the world refute them constantly, with scientific data stating that one of the biggest weapons against the dangers of climate change is old growth forests.

This time, however, it's personal. Peter Mitchell suggests that we donate to groups such as WIRES and Landcare, who actively work to support our environment. Well, my wife Lois is a very hard-working secretary and publicity officer of the local branch of WIRES. If Mr Mitchell reads the local papers he writes to, he has seen many of her articles. I am an active member of Tathra Landcare. We both also serve as volunteers protecting endangered shorebirds. As far as monetary donations are concerned, one of the organisations we donate some of our hard-earned retirement income to is the Wilderness Society. Like the other 'enviro-nazis' Mr Mitchell mentions, the Wilderness Society is dedicated to preserving our unique and precious flora and fauna. In case Mr Mitchell is unaware, one of the Wilderness Society's causes is to end native forest logging.

While I'm getting personal, I would also like to say that I sympathise with the logging workers, e.g., truck drivers, welders, heavy machinery operators. They feel their jobs are at risk. Many, many years ago, when I was in my early 30s, and had two small children at home, I taught in an inner city US school for hard core unemployed young adults. The program lost its funding. I was out of a job. I transferred my teaching skills to the computer industry, with no previous computer background, learned computers, and spent the rest of my career working with computers. Truck driving, welding, operating heavy machinery, and the like are transferrable skills. I would suggest that the government help with this transfer. Of course it's not easy to change jobs. It wasn't easy for whalers many years ago, but people and times changed when they had to, didn't they?

Sincerely yours, Dan Katz 16 Edna Drive Tathra, NSW 2550