

From: John Perkins  
To: Narooma News  
Sent: Tuesday, March 01, 2011 10:15 AM  
Subject: **Letter to the Editor in response to Philip Creagh (23-2-11) 'More balance needed in forest protest'**

What a strange contradiction Philip Creagh is in his support for the logging of the forests of the South Coast which is mostly destined for the Eden Woodchip mill.

Philip Creagh a disciple of the anti marine park brigade has often commented in letters to this paper that the real threats to the marine environment are catchment related.

In consideration of this Philip Creagh might like to enlighten himself of the very poor track record of Forest NSW in relation to pollution beaches in the forested areas they manage. This has resulted in considerable fines being imposed on this renegade government agency in the Land and Environment Court. Some of these fines have been for ten of thousands of dollars. The Court Judgements concerning these matters make for interesting reading and are incredibly condemning of Forest NSW.

Former fishing journalist for the Canberra Times John Turnbull was critical of Forest NSW too in an article published titled "Clearfelling causing concern for Angler's Action Group" He described this sort of intensified logging razes hillsides causing erosion which damages rivers, estuaries and off-shore reefs as vast amounts of topsoil are washed down slope because the protective canopy has been removed, allowing rain to pound on the bare soil.

And it is for these reasons Lisa Stone and the SEFR crew undertake a very important environmental logging watchdog role over many years without which logging events occurring in our much treasured South Coast forests would be much worse.

Since the Regional Forest Agreements was finalised for our area ten years ago we have witnessed an escalation of logging events occurring in our local forests. For example, forested areas such as South Brooman have been logged twice in less than ten years. This does not sound like sustainable logging to me. And neither does it to the NSW Auditor General. In fact he identified in 2009 that Forests NSW have been cutting down trees without any accurate idea of sustainability of the industry. The NSW Auditor General also revealed losses from logging native forests of up to \$14 million in some years. This confirms that the NSW native forest industry managed by Forest NSW is a financial albatross to the taxpayers of NSW.

As we have seen locally with the attempt to log koala habitat, the Regional Forest Agreements are a licence to slaughter endangered species which would see other operators put in jail.

These Forestry Agreements set up by the Federal Government have done little to protect the environment from logging. These agreements between the Federal and State governments on what areas could be logged, were unaccountable, hard to measure and almost impossible to enforce.

The degradation of our South Coast forests for woodchips is destroying their carbon carrying capacity, generating carbon pollution, reducing water quality flow and soil moisture content, increasing fire risk, exacerbating extinction rates for forest dwelling species and undermining future jobs in South Coast tourism.

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