

Harriett Swift
Convenor, Chipstop Campaign
PO Box 797
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Mr Daniel Tuan
Regional Manager
Forestry Corporation of NSW
Batemans Bay

Attention: Rob Young

Dear Daniel

Proposed logging in Gnupa/ Nullica Forests

I refer to the letter signed on your behalf by Rob Young dated 24th April 2013 regarding proposed logging of Gnupa and Nullica State Forests.

You asked for information relating to the presence of the koala in the area to be logged.

1. As you would be aware, a koala hair in scat record exists for Gnupa Compartment 731. The Harvest Plans for Gnupa Compartment 732 and Nullica 545 noted that no further evidence of koalas was found in “pre-harvest transect surveys” and no measures were applied to protect koalas when the logging occurred.

2. Similarly, there were also records of koalas found in nearby Yurammie Compartments 963, 964 and 965 and no provision was made to protect koalas during the logging of those compartments last year.

According to the Yurammie Harvest Plan, “Records within Compartments were found between 1993 and 1998 the compartments were recorded between 1993 & 1998. As they have not resulted from an asterix survey, additional habitat is not required to be obtained as precondition 6.11a) and b). If the species is detected with in the compartment during harvesting please inform the ecologist immediately. “

I personally remember finding koala scats in Yurammie when I took part in a surveys there as a volunteer some years ago. Yurammie is just over the road from Gnupa/ Nullica.

3. I remind you that when Tanja State Forest was originally proposed for logging, surveys initially showed no koala presence. It was only after protests and the sighting of a koala that further surveys were undertaken. Those surveys resulted in the discovery of a significant new koala population. The same could well be the case with other forests such as Gnupa and Nullica, if further, more serious surveys were undertaken.

4. Further, I understand that IFOA prescriptions for the koala on the South Coast are currently under review and are likely to be changed. In these circumstances it would be quite inappropriate to log any forests where koalas have historically been recorded.

5. As the Yurammie Harvest Plan suggests, it is a requirement that logging in koala habitat requires the logger to check a tree before he cuts it down. Leaving aside the general difficulty of seeing koalas in tall trees, that rule is not practical.

It may have had some chance of being effective in the days of the chainsaw, but at the present time, when all logging is done by a mechanical harvester, there is no chance of the operator being able to see through the heavy steel plate roof of his machine to check whether there is a koala in the tree or not. Other workers on the site (usually 2) are also in no position to check on what animals are in the tree. For occupational health and safety reasons, they cannot stand close enough to the tree to have any chance of seeing a koala or anything else in the tree.

Recommendation: For these reasons I am requesting that Forestry Corporation does not proceed with any logging of this forest. It has suffered so much already and for the koala and other species to have any chance of survival, logging should stop.

Yours sincerely

Harriett Swift
2 May 2013