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Dr Bronte Somerset
5-7 Cobargo Street
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Dear Dr Somerset

Thank you for your emails of 6 and 7 October 2014 to The Hon. Katrina Hodgkinson MP, Minister for Primary Industries, regarding Glenbog State Forest. I have been asked to respond to you directly.

Peer reviewed research states that common wombats use multiple burrows which often form extensive networks across a large home range. Not all burrows will be active at the same time, as a wombat may use more than 10 burrows, and larger burrows generally have several entrances. Therefore disturbance to a burrow entrance would not be expected to threaten wombats.

Nonetheless, the Forestry Corporation of NSW (FCNSW) put in place a number of voluntary measures to protect the burrows of common wombats in Glenbog State Forest, following consultation with local environment groups.

During forest operations, local groups alleged that the entrances to 11 burrows were alleged to have been disturbed, seven of which were promptly cleared. One entrance was disturbed by the removal of a dangerous tree, which caused rotten timber to fall into the entrance. The locations of three burrows were disputed by machinery operators.

FCNSW has not found evidence of harm to wombats or of deliberate non-compliance with harvest plan conditions in Glenbog State Forest.

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nick Roberts", with a large flourish extending to the right.

16 OCT 2014

Nick Roberts
Chief Executive Officer