

3. Environment – South Coast Region

I am writing with deep concern about the care and management of the South East region of NSW spotted gum forests in particular the forest adjoining Corunna Lake. When I hear that logging is taking place in my local area I feel angry and confused as to how this is able to happen seemingly without adequate community consultation and clearly without regard for the ecological and environmental devastation that so often lies in the wake of these actions.

Forests are vital for climate stabilisation of the planet; existing mature plantations can meet Australia's timber needs; while the Regional Forest Agreement process provides a timely window of attention on native forests, its assumptions and outcomes are clearly outdated in the light of scientific evidence and the recognised importance of forests on climate and water cycles; - the present system of management of SE native forests for timber extraction has overseen large environmental, economic, social and employment losses with inestimable damage to soil, water, biodiversity, wildlife, habitat and canopy thus drying out the forests.

After hearing the directives of the Great Southern Forest group and their executive brief that is available via their-website (www.greatsouthernforest.org.au) I invite you to look at their management proposal. They are offering a very comprehensive approach to native forest management with respect to climate, jobs, water, carbon and wildlife. I believe that we need to be considering the future generations in all our decisions with regard to managing our natural resources and the Great Southern Forest Group is offering a management plan that meets the needs of our future.

As a member of the south coast community, I want-the consultation period to be extended and more care to be taken in investigating what our local community wants in regard to logging our forests. I want all logging activities to be halted immediately and proper investigation into the thousands of legislative breaches Forestry Corporation has made. I want a serious rewriting of the outdated Regional Forest Agreements and for the management plan of Great Southern Forest Group to be seriously considered in this revision. We need a forest management plan that is aligned with what the community wants so that we may enjoy the forests in the present time and respect the wellbeing of our future generations.