

Response to the: Coastal Integrated Forestry Operations Approval

In this submission I convey a number of EcoNetwork's concerns relating to the above and the NSW Government's Discussion Paper.

Of primary concern is that the proposed changes include very substantial reductions in existing environmental protection and represent serious threats to the ecology of native forests, their wildlife and natural water courses.

We are firmly of the belief that the government's commitment to increase supply from native forests at existing levels, is certainly not compatible with the long-term protection of the ecological values of native forests in NSW.

It is as obvious as it is unacceptable that the removal of conditions will open the way for intensified logging and clear-felling which must be eliminated from forest management in NSW.

Another obvious outcome from removal of the requirement for pre-logging surveys of native flora and fauna, will see native species including the threatened and endangered, placed at further unacceptable risk.

Other concerns relate to the logging of steep lands above 30 degrees and its potential impacts for soil erosion, water pollution, weed invasion and on wildlife corridors.

EcoNetwork also supports the Forest Policy of the Nature Conservation Council of NSW as in the following:

- Protect and restore native forests for biodiversity, climate, water and natural beauty;
- Immediately protect high conservation value forests;
- Implement a rapid transition policy to end industrial logging of native forests and develop a plantation-based timber industry;
- Immediately end native forest wood chipping;
- Support the development of plantations, as necessary, on an ecologically sustainable and socially acceptable basis;
- End market distortions which lead to unfair competition and unsustainable forest management;
- Provide structural adjustment support for industries and communities dependent on native forest logging;
- Ensure public access to information about forest management and timber supply;
- Take immediate action to end unlawful logging in public and private forests;and
- Support measures to end international trade in unlawful and unsustainable forest products.

We particularly call for the abandonment of all plans to remove existing protection from native forests in NSW.

Yours sincerely

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