

From: [REDACTED]
To: [_ALL-EPA-Forestry-IFOARemake](#)
Subject: Coastal Integrated Forestry Approvals
Date: Sunday, 6 April 2014 11:29:40 PM

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing on behalf of members of Willoughby Environmental Protection Association (WEPA Inc). Our association, founded in 1981, is concerned with all aspects of natural resource management.

Having read the Discussion Paper, we are appalled at the changes proposed to the four Coastal Integrated Forestry Approvals (IFOAs) cited.

The proposals display a lack of concern for the long-term health and future of our public native forests and their associated wildlife in favour of a commitment to unsustainable extraction of timber.

We are particularly concerned that the Tasmanian Forest Practices Authority is being called upon for advice on forest regulation. The logging industry in Tasmania has long been recognised as economically and environmentally unsustainable and should not be regarded as a scientifically dependable model of forest practice. The NSW Government needs to recognise that current timber supply commitments in NSW native forests are unsustainable and not be attempting to put in place practices which will exacerbate the existing rate and extent of destruction of our native forests.

The proposal to lift the prohibition on logging on steeply sloping land over 30 degrees is extraordinary, and will lead to increased run-off, soil erosion and sedimentation of watercourses.

By removing conditions which limit logging intensity and extent, the proposals would lead to an intensification of logging and increased clear-felling of forests. This in turn will destroy habitats and further endanger wildlife, some of which is already listed as endangered. Increased opening up of the forests will also lead to increased weed invasion, management of which is insufficiently dealt with in these proposals.

We do not agree with the removal of requirements for pre-logging surveys for threatened species. These should be retained and carried out independently. Broad scale landscape assessments are inadequate to ensure the identification of vulnerable plant and animal species.

In the opinion of our association, the proposed changes to these IFOAs represent a serious reduction in environmental protection of our public native forests and represent open slather for the logging industry. The proposals also take no account of climate change.

WEPA strongly urges the withdrawal of these proposals which are not in the present or long-term interests of our native forests and wildlife.

Yours sincerely,

Gay Spies

President

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