



Ku-ring-gai Bat Conservation Society Inc.

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Ku-ring-gai Bat Conservation Society Inc. (KBCS) objects strongly to the renewal of Regional Forest Agreements in NSW. Instead, public native forests must be protected and restored to provide recreation and healthy activities for people. The small numbers of employees in the native logging industry can easily be absorbed into caring for the forests. Ending logging will eliminate substantial costs to the tax payer and local councils which have to maintain roads.

Regional Forest Agreements have failed to achieve their stated aims. They have led to serious degradation of our native forests. They have not achieved the aim of sustainability. Instead, logging of native forests has cost the public purse substantial funds which would be more effectively used to generate a wider range of use of these forests by the public.

Regional Forest Agreements were based on inaccurate estimates of wood supply volumes and contributed to unsustainable forest management. For example, the North East Regional Forest Agreement region was committed to produce 260,000m³ per year for the life of the Agreement. An assessment by the NSW Auditor General stated in 2009 'to meet wood supply commitments, the native forests managed by Forests NSW (now Forestry Corporation) on the north coast is being cut faster than it is growing back' (Audit Office of NSW 2009).

There has been a failure to review the Regional Forest Agreements against the original aims and objectives which was a requirement of the Agreements.

Native forest logging is not a large employer regionally, and more people are employed in the profitable plantation industry. For example, in NSW in 2011, forestry and logging employed 2131 people (full and part time), which was a fall from the 2522 recorded in the previous census. [NSW Department of Industry and Investment. The contribution of primary industries to the NSW economy Key data 2010]

KBCS most strongly objects to renewal of any of the Regional Forest Agreements because they will lead to even more serious degradation of native forests and loss of biodiversity. Our public forests cannot sustain further removal of large hollow-bearing trees as already many species which depend on hollows for reproduction are threatened with extinction.

More intensive logging by more frequent cutting cycles will further reduce the pollen and nectar production which previously supported threatened species such as the grey-headed flying-fox and swift parrot. Ending native forest logging and allowing regeneration of native public forests is now urgently needed to prevent further declines in nomadic/migratory nectar-feeding species.

Logging reduces carbon stored in forests. Temperate eucalypt forests are some of the most carbon dense in the world and research shows that, for the Southern Forestry Region alone, between 1.2 and 1.5 million tonnes of CO2 emissions could be avoided on an annual basis by ending logging. Conversely by not ending logging in this region, this amount of carbon will end up heating the atmosphere.

Conservation and Recreation

Instead of renewing the Regional Forest Agreements, KBCS supports a well-planned transition of the public native forests from logging to providing recreational opportunities for coastal communities in NSW. Instead of the few forestry jobs, a wider range of jobs will develop in tourism, healthy recreation and in conservation of our native forests.

We re-iterate our strong objection to the renewal of Regional Forest Agreements for the reasons outlined in this submission and trust that sufficient public opposition will be demonstrated to prevent their renewal.

Submitted by:



Ku-ring-gai Bat Conservation Society Inc.

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