

TO: DECC ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AND REGULATION  
RE: STATE FORESTS SOUTHERN SUB-REGION  
MOGO 184 and BUCKENBOWRA 516

INSPECTION by Tony Whan & Lisa Stone: February 2009

MOGO 184  
10/2/09

Another inspection of this logging area found further evidence of non-compliance with TSL prescriptions.

This inspection was conducted around dump 11, situated at the end of 200/4 road. Heavy logging had taken place in this mostly flat section of the compartment; it seemed that more than 50% canopy removal.

An instance of a retained R tree with debris adjacent was found at GPS reading 0234283/6030117.

There was also a retained H tree with debris found nearby.

There was also found evidence of hollow-bearing tree felling in the area as seen on the video footage.

Following this we went back up to dump 9 for another inspection. Nothing new breach-wise, just that FNSW had come along to the offending stump, crossed out the H, and added 'REMOVED FOR SAFETY'.

Mogo 184 video(edited)

0 - 26s section around dump 11 showing logged hollow-bearing tree.

27s - 38s shows H tree with debris.

39s - 58s shows R tree with debris.

59s - end revisits the dump 9 area where the previously noted felled H tree occurred.

COMMENTS: Thankyou to Mr Cranwell for his letter (ref.FIL06/1449) regarding my previous report on this compartment. However after this second inspection of 184, it was seen that further non-compliance with the TSL had occurred. It is very bewildering to be informed by Mr Cranwell that it is okay for unmarked trees to be included in the FNSW count of retained trees to meet the TSL prescriptions. Could you please explain this position further?

BUCKENBOURA 516  
17/2/09

An inspection was undertaken in the compartment in the area around and between dumps 8 & 9; we could not access the rest of the compartment due to a large tree fallen across the road. This compartment is recorded as being logged 14jan08 - 30apr08, then it was burnt sometime after. We parked at GPS location 0768721/6052360, about dump 9 on the harvest plan map.

Buckenboursa 516 video(edited)

0 - 10s gives GPS reading of where we parked.

10s - 22s shows first H tree with missing head

23s - 57s shows second H tree without head, and very close by a R tree in the same condition

58s - 1m24s shows two poorly selected H trees

1m25s - 1m50s shows two more H trees without their heads

1m51s - 2m10s shows a H tree that had no visible hollows next to a R tree of very poor selection

2m11s - end shows GPS reading for near the top of spur near dump 8.

COMMENTS: I do not know if your unit has undertaken a field audit of this compartment. What our inspection found was further justification to our feelings that FNSW has no concept of 'best practice' or 'sustainability'. It seemed a particularly gruesome forestry operation, particularly considering that this area has been nominated as wilderness, and should rightfully have been reserved as such. How can such heedless logging be allowed to occur? Will the findings of this inspection be acted on? What justifications can FNSW give for these headless H trees? It is noted that this inspection was of an area marked as 'low volume' on the operational map: what would a survey of the 'normal prescription' areas uncover? Is there any legal retribution that can be brought to bear on FNSW for allowing this style of logging to occur? I request to be fully informed of what transpires from this report.

AGS?

Late last week we also took a quick survey through Mogo 186, where current AGS logging is being inflicted on the forest. Our cursory observations were that there were lots of pink tape but very little tree marking; we failed to notice any marked H or R trees. I note that the harvest plan mentions that these trees are to be marked. Is this actually the case? Or have FNSW decided to ignore this prescription as well? We didn't have evidence recording equipment with us on that occasion, but will have a further inspection of this operation as we have been contacted by several concerned people about what they have seen in this compartment.

Thankyou for your time, and I look forward to hearing from you regarding these matters.

Yours sincerely

Tony Whan & Lisa Stone 27/2/09

Po Box 899

Moruya NSW 2537