

SOUTH EAST FOREST RESCUE

S T O P P I N ' T H E
C H O P P I N '

PO BOX 5224, COBARGO, NSW, 2550 PH: 0427 221 691

E-MAIL: sefr@fastmail.fm

8/9/10

Mr Steve Hartley,
Manager, Crown Forestry Policy and Regulation,
Dept. Environment, Climate Change and Water.

RE: BREACHES OF EDEN IFOA-TSL 8.8.12, MURRAH SF CPT 2032.

Dear Steve,

SEFR has audited the Koala transect surveys for Murrah SF Cpt 2032, and found that the survey fails to comply with the prescriptions in the IFOA-TSL.

8.8.12. Koala survey

b) Transect Survey with Quadrats

i. An intensive survey within the proposed logging area will occur prior to harvesting to determine whether koalas use the compartment.

Previous breach reports on Koala surveys have focused on the time taken to undertake transects and therefore the adequacy and intensity of the survey. Once again SEFR has serious concerns regarding the same issues in this compartment. The following table summarises the transect data.

Transect	Distance (m)	Quadrats required	Quadrats surveyed	Time (min)	Mins/plot	Speed (m/min)	Surveyor
1	540	22	25	68	2.72	7.94	CS?
2	565	23	30	61	2.03	9.26	CS
3	520	21	24	117	4.87	4.44	CS
4	380	16	22	53	2.40	7.16	CS
5	255	11	15	35	2.33	7.28	CS
6	555	23	22	55	2.50	10.09	PK
7	810	33	31	105	3.38	7.71	PK
8	880	36	29	90	3.10	9.77	NT
9	350	15	13	55	4.23	6.36	NT
10	830	34	31	80	2.58	10.37	RD
11	780	32	28	75	2.69	10.40	RD

12	730	30	27	65	2.40	11.23	RD
13A	100	5	5	20	4.00	5.00	RD
13	530	22	21	75	3.57	7.06	
13N	180	8	6	25	4.16	7.2	RD
13S	350	15	15	50	3.33	7	SV
14	645	26	27	105	3.88	6.14	SV
15	350	15	17	80	4.70	4.37	SV
16	320	13	12	30	2.50	10.66	DW
17	320	13	12	50	4.16	6.40	DW
Total		413	412	1294	3.14		

The report by David Milledge stated that an appropriate time per quadrat should be 5-10 minutes to ensure the survey is adequate. If this is taken as the baseline then only transect 3 and 15 come close to meeting this.

In SEFR's breach report on Cpt's 2133, 2051 and 2052 the average time per quadrat was 3.25mins. This is similar to the above figure 3.14mins. We believe that any time less than the average time is totally unacceptable. Therefore transects 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 12 and 16 do not comply with the TSL.

Although several transects have more quadrats than what is required there are several transects where the required number quadrats have not been completed. This occurs with transects 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 16 and 17.

Once again there is a strong correlation between the surveyors of the defective transects in this report and the report on Cpt's 2133, 2051, 2052.

SEFR has grave concerns over the integrity of all the FNSW Koala surveys. Every compartment that SEFR has obtained Koala surveys have been in breach of the TSL. In Mumbulla 2133 no Koala activity was detected yet a scat was found 400m from the boundary and tracks were found right on the boundary.

The survey in Murrah 2051 also found no Koala activity but during the resurveying of inadequate transects a scat was found. While this scat was found off-transect and the transect was being surveyed properly it brings into question the reliability and accuracy of the transect surveys as a method to detect Koala activity.

Thank you for investigating these breaches in the context of your ongoing regulatory activities and we await your response.

Yours sincerely,

Scott Daines