



South East Forest Rescue

Stoppin the Choppin

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Dear Steve,

Further to our email of March, where clause 8.8.12 is triggered Forests NSW is required to consult with neighbours, conservation groups and animal welfare groups.

a) Consultation with the local community should be undertaken during the harvest planning stage. As a minimum this should include contact and exchange of information with neighbours, local animal welfare and conservation groups.

They did not consult any of these and in the case of the principal neighbour, the Biamanga Board, explicitly refused to consult on anything other than what they narrowly defined as "heritage" issues. They would not consult about wildlife.

At the recent meeting between FNSW and the logging subcommittee of the Biamanga and Gulaga Boards FNSW officer Kevin Petty said consultation would be limited to cultural site heritage and rejected a request at that meeting for copies of the (then) draft harvesting plan and the wildlife surveys that had been prepared as input to the plan.

The Biamanga Board which controls and is responsible for the land (abutting the northern and eastern boundaries of the logging compartment) which has been handed back to the traditional owners, is of the view that cultural heritage is broader than sacred sites assessments and includes environmental considerations. But questions from one of the board members about the impact of the logging on animals, and the intensity of the logging, and the proportion of the logging which was destined to become woodchips were rejected by Mr Petty as not being part of what he considered to be cultural heritage. Rather than discuss the issues Mr Petty suggested that any information beyond sacred site issues required by the Board about FNSW logging operations be addressed to him in writing and he would then consider how he would choose to respond to them and that he did not consider it appropriate that the Boards be given copies of draft harvesting plans until plans of logging operations had been finalised at which time the Board, like the public, would have access to the final authorised harvesting plan.

As FNSW has failed to consult any groups we again state that this is a breach.

Yours

Lisa Stone Tony Whan Scott Daines

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