

SOUTH EAST FOREST RESCUE

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

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27 June 2005

David Nicholson
Manager
Forestry Policy and Regulation Section
Dept. Environment and Conservation

Cc: Ms Lee Rhiannon MLC, Mr Bob Debus

Dear David,

RE: BREACHES OF IFOA-TSL CPT 3284 WANDELLA SF

This is a follow up letter to our complaint from last year, your reference **HOF60209**, regarding the felling of two trees prior to mark up and the subsequent imprisonment and assault of conservationists.

During your investigation, Regional Manager Steve Dodds has told you that the area in which this incident happened had been marked up during the early 2003 operation, and was therefore not a breach of the TSL.

We have followed up with our own investigation and obtained a copy of the SFO notes for Cpt 3284 and 3283. In these notes they state the areas that have been marked for exclusion zones and H and R trees. No where in these notes are any comments relating to the marking up of H or R trees in the area of concern. The entry on the 27/11/02, being the entry Steve Dodds gave you, it says "mark exclusion zone north d6 to Paddys ck Rd." In the two pages of SFO notes we have, marking up is described as for exclusion zones or H and R trees. There is no mention of H and R trees being marked near dump 6. These SFO notes clearly contradict the statements made by Steve Dodds.

In May this year we visited the old Monga SF Cpt 810 which was part logged in 2001. In this Cpt we observed H and R markings on trees from that operation 5 years previous. As we stated in our initial complaint there were no markings present within a 100m radius of dump 6. This was noted by many witnesses. Three of us that were present in Wandella on the day in question were also present in Monga to see the markings from that operation.

Just recently we reviewed our video footage of that day in Wandella. On this footage I have asked the SFO Paul McGrath if he is going to breach the contractors for felling the trees prior to marking. Paul then says that it has been marked “ over there and there”, gesturing to the west and north. I have then asked about H and R trees to which he has replied “ That hasn’t been done yet”. The SFO Paul McGrath is in charge of the contractors. The SFO was present when the trees were felled. The SFO knows who felled them. The SFO and Regional Manager have since lied regarding what happened. Paul McGrath should immediately be compelled to reveal who felled the trees and who ordered these trees be felled.

With these observations it is clear that Steve Dodds has lied to you in your investigation. We consider this to be a very serious matter that needs to be fully investigated. It is outrageous that a Regional Manager of Forests NSW can lie to DEC in the course of investigating a breach of the TSL. What else might Steve Dodds have lied about over the years to DEC?

In previous telephone conversations with you over this matter you have stated you feel that this is trivial. We would strenuously disagree with your position. The illegal felling of these trees that caused the imprisonment of a group of conservationists and the following assault of 2 conservationists by contractors is of serious concern. The fact that the Regional Manager has also lied to try and hide the facts surrounding this incident is of even greater concern.

You have already been verbally told several weeks ago of the contents of this letter and our desire to have this matter fully investigated. I hope that upon receipt of this letter you will reopen this investigation immediately and get to the truth of the matter. I await your reply.

Regards,

Scott Daines