

# 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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28/6/04

David Nicholson  
Forestry Unit Manager  
E.P.A

## **RE: BREACH OF THE PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT OPERATIONS ACT 1997 IN COMPARTMENT 579, COUP 1 OF YAMBULLA SF No 126.**

Dear David,

An audit of compartment 579 in Yambulla SF on the 26/6/04 by SEFR has found breaches of the following clause of the PEO Act.

### **120 Prohibition of pollution of waters**

(1) A person who pollutes any waters is guilty of an offence.

(2) In this section:

*pollute* waters includes cause or permit any waters to be polluted.

The logging operation in this coup was conducted late 2003 and the EPL ceased on the 25<sup>th</sup> Feb 2004. Recently this coup has undergone a post logging burn.

On inspection of this coup, the 1<sup>st</sup> order streams marked A, B, C and D on the map provided and part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> order stream marked E, have had all or part of their exclusion zones burnt by the post logging burn. Of most concern is the stream marked A, being a steep sided gully and has had all of its ground cover removed by the fire. Photos attached are of stream A.

The soils in this coup are highly dispersible and with the drought are even more so. The first occurrence of rain in this area will result in massive amounts of soil being washed into the streams.

It is blatantly obvious that SFNSW have been negligent in the conduct of this operation as the fire has also crossed the boundary of the coup and entered the neighbouring private property. Once again SFNSW has lit up and walked away and left the fire to burn out of control.

At point F (GPS 0724911/5891399) a snig track heading straight towards the 2<sup>nd</sup> order exclusion has no crossbank at the end of it. A photo of this is also attached.

We request that you urgently investigate this breach as it is of major concern and pollution of waters is inevitable. We would also hope that you prosecute this gross negligence by SFNSW. We are available to meet you on site if required. If you have any queries please don't hesitate to contact me.

Regards,

Scott Daines