

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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7/7/04

Doug Mills
N.P.W.S.
Southern Directorate,
Threatened Species Unit.

RE: BREACHES OF THE IFOA-TSL IN COMPARTMENT 584 COUP 1, YAMBULLA SF No 126

Dear Doug,

An audit of compartment 584 was conducted on the 27/6/04 by SEFR and the following breaches were found.

BREACH 1

5.6. Tree Retention

f) Non-regrowth Zone Hollow-bearing Tree Retention

iv. Retained hollow-bearing trees must be selected from the trees with the largest dbhob within the two hectare area and must be live trees and should have good crown development and minimal butt damage.

At point A on the map (GPS 0724746/5892348), approx. 40m NW along 584-1 Rd from dump E and 5m north of 584-1 Rd, there is a marked H tree that is one of the worst examples I have seen. It does not have any hollows, has recently lost its head, has a tree next to it that goes over it and is no where near the largest dbhob (photo 1). A few metres away there is a stump that is in excess of 1m diameter.

At point B (GPS 0724826/5892321) is another H tree marked with no hollows present. Meanwhile 15m away there is a huge tree that has been felled and left.

At GPS 0724743/5892429 is another marked H tree with no hollows present.

BREACH 2

5.6. Tree Retention

g) Non-regrowth Zone Recruitment Tree Retention

iv. Retained recruitment trees must show potential for developing into hollow-bearing trees. Retained recruitment trees must have good crown development and should have minimal butt damage and should not be suppressed. Mature and late mature trees must be retained as recruitment trees where they are available.

Close by point B, is a marked R tree of dubious quality. The same applies to the following 3 GPS readings; 1 - 0724773/5892496, 2 - 0724688/5892661, 3 - 0724674/5892587

BREACH 3

5.6. Tree Retention

k) Protection of retained trees

ii. In the course of conducting specified forestry activities, logging debris must not, to the greatest extent practicable, be allowed to accumulate within five metres of a retained hollow-bearing tree, recruitment tree, stag, Allocasuarina with more than 30 crushed cones beneath, eucalypt food tree, or Yellow-bellied Glider or Squirrel Glider sap feed tree. Logging debris within a five metre radius of a retained tree must be removed or flattened to a height of less than one metre. Disturbance to ground and understorey must be minimised to the greatest extent practicable within this five metre radius. Habitat and recruitment trees must not be used as bumper trees during harvesting operations.

The H tree at point A besides being of poor quality also has debris piled more than 1m high. It has snig tracks metres from it on 2 sides and so could have removed the debris.

10m to the west of point B there is a stag that piles of bark from the dump have been dozed to within 5m of it. There is other debris around it greater than 1m high as well.

At point C GPS 0724459/5892171 (photo 2) and 0724746/5892348 there are 2 not marked retained trees that have hollows with debris around their base more than 1m high.

We have only looked at a small part of this coup and there are other H and R trees that we did not record that were similar. From what we have seen it seems that SFNSW is intent on leaving no habitat for our threatened arboreal mammals by either felling hollow bearing trees and leaving inferior trees or any hollow trees that are retained are left primed to be burnt down following the post logging burn.

We would request that you investigate these breaches that are not in the spirit of the IFOA as soon as possible and prosecute SFNSW to the fullest extent possible for their failure to adequately protect habitat for our threatened and endangered species.

If you require further information please contact me and I am available to meet in the field to show you these breaches.

Regards,

Scott Daines.