

Remake of the Coastal IFOAs
Environment Protection Authority
Level 12, PO Box A290
Sydney South NSW 1232

To Whom It May Concern

6th April 2014

Taking advice from Tasmanian Forestry on the care of native forests? Foxes and the henhouse come immediately to mind. There are a lot of nice-sounding words and ideas in your 2014 discussion paper, "Remake of Coastal Integrated Forestry Operations Approvals", but seemingly no substance. I note that your departmental title is "Environmental Protection Authority"; when are you intending to start doing some of this protecting? It seems to me your brief is to destroy as much as possible, in the least possible time, with the least possible difficulty or regulation for those doing the destroying. Yes, I have read your document fully and I am greatly alarmed by the changes proposed.

Taken together, these changes represent a substantial reduction in environmental protection and a serious threat to our native forests and wildlife.

The government's stated commitment to maintaining timber supply from our public native forests at current levels is incompatible with the long term protection of their environmental values. Current timber supply commitments are known to be unsustainable – failure to address this issue will result in severe impacts on biological diversity and forest health.

The proposal to remove limits on logging intensity opens the way for widespread clear felling of our native forests. Removing the requirement to conduct pre-logging surveys for threatened species and habitat features will place those species at increased risk.

Removing the longstanding prohibition on logging on steeply sloping land will increase soil erosion and water pollution, promote weed invasion and threaten landscape scale wildlife corridors. Furthermore, the discussion paper does not adequately address important threats to forest health, including invasive weeds and forest dieback.

I am strongly opposed to the proposed changes, and call on the NSW Government to abandon this ill-considered plan to weaken protection for our native forests and wildlife.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Yours sincerely,



Paul Vale

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CC: Premier O'Farrell, Opposition Leader John Robertson, Greens MLC Shoebridge