

Remake of the Coastal Integrated Forestry Operations Approvals Discussion Paper February 2014

Submission

I am very worried that my submission will not be read however as a community member concerned about our threatened species and the news that our world heritage wonders such as the koala, Great Barrier Reef and Gondwana lands no longer have our Governments support or protection. I have to participate in this community consultation process despite my fears. It is very sad that kids in our communities are criminalized because they are concerned about climate change and know the destruction of our native forests are connected with the planet warming, the loss of our fragile environment and endangered and threatened species. What do they have for their future?

1. Governments of the day must be accountable for their actions and proactive in protecting Australia's rare and endangered world heritage listed.

Employ more people in auditing logging practices and determining threatened species habitat eg One person employed for 4 hours to find evidence of habitation in a 200 hectare area is not acceptable eg it could not be a true record.

Employing an independent authority would show some real concern for the environment. EPA is currently working as an agency of the Government and is therefore governed by and directed by them.

2. I submit that this Remake should not be initiated. The current IFOA is complicated and difficult to implement simply because it covers a well thought out scientifically researched document, that is not adhered to, changing some of the legislations and making it (logging) "easier" is not what environmentalists and community wants. Valuing Australian Assets has always been difficult for our Government and meeting high quality wood demands from Europe, Asia and China is going to be an ongoing problem, especially if Government agree to fulfill orders which cannot be fulfilled. Why can't we honestly handle business deals in a straightforward way?

Construction of hardwood forests and employing appropriate people to do this is the way of the future, using solar, wind and water and lobbying

banks to invest in alternate fuel, eg. The Sun, is the future.

The belief that Eucalypt will grow like weeds and is always going to regrow is not true, FCNSW is relying on native forest and killing off our natural wildlife and fauna in the process, I dont know any other business who doesnt pay for its stock , relies on government money and runs at a loss consistently.

RE THINK BUSINESS MODEL FOR FORESTS

5. Switch On they say what have they been doing? This remake muddies the water. Dilutes the legislation and appears to allow a free for all. EPA representative at the Grafton meeting called the IFOA a “DOG” of a document.

Once again I suggest employ an Authority that will protect our environment. Change the current EPA to an agency or get rid of it altogether.

7.1 To be able to appropriately find and report evidence of threatened species habitat employ more people to do the ground work, current employment is not appropriate for the work to be done.

7.4 Bell minor associated dieback

This is an investment into evidence procured to support cable logging.

8.3 The EPA is encouraged to strongly oppose logging on steep slopes

- Logging on steep slopes will increase
- costs--- investors will be lobbied to protect fragile environments and not invest in those particular hardwoods
- OHS issues ie insurance (steep slopes of more than 30???)
- further pollution of water filtration areas and water courses is obvious.
- further damage to soil,rainforest flora and threatened species

9.2 LIDAR and GEONET

In determining exclusion and buffer zones technology improves in and identifying specific areas could be positive. In the protection of the environment and fragile areas eg Habitats of threatened species.

10. continuous improvement

In what? The business of selling our forests to overseas investors?

If this document was eg Reviewing how best to improve logging practises and to plant trees for the future.

If this document detailed protection of threatened species and areas of heritage listed sites in a strong and honest and determined way. That would be continuous improvement, however you will NOT have continuous improvement if you continue to take out precious areas and regard those areas as yours for the taking.

Continuous improvement is not allowing more flexibility for the contractors, continuous improvement is adhering to the document in place , which is not being done.((try reading some policies and procedures in a medical context, does this mean that they should not be implemented???)

Of course not this is a crazy , lazy way of watering down rules and regulations so that “TheJob” can be done without too much angst.

Continuous Improvement is making the perpetrators of the breeches to the legislation pay. BIG MONEY.

It is essential to Increase fines that is continuous improvement.

11. Implementing the new coastal IFOA with the EPA and DPI regulating FCNSW.

The EPA is not doing its job as its name suggests, protecting the environment? I dont think so. New regulators are needed.

The FCNSW is running at a loss in the Native forest logging and in many more ways than Government seems to be aware. How can this Government department be serious in this ludicrous attempt to be accountable, isnt there anyone out there looking at the business of FCNSW and wondering how on earth it is still being given financial support?

This is a failing business that keeps getting propped up and it is destroying Australia's future.

Respectfully submitted

Carol Sparks

