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### **SUBMISSION ON IFOA REMAKE**

**I attended the IFOA briefing in Grafton and like others was concerned about the plan to put Integrated Forestry Operation approvals and licences into a new framework.**

**Also concerning was proposed cable logging.**

In the past I have expressed my dismay about clearing operations being carried out in native forests without regard to slope, water catchment, koala and other wildlife habitat.

I would like to see logging on slopes height restrictions lowered to stop erosion and soil being washed down hillsides.

I would also like to see Forestry follow the example of some countries in Northern Europe and start establishing native forests on roadsides which would make for easier harvesting.

I would also like to see stock routes incorporated in future native forest regrowth areas. These provide very valuable corridors for native animals.

In replanting processes I would also like to see greater attention being placed on the dropping levels of underground water.

At the briefing I was disappointed to learn that the provisions in the regulations under review would not carry enough clout to stop the type of abuses which occurring now.

The virtual 'clear fell' that goes under such phrases as "Australian Group Selection" or heavy single tree selection is modifying our native forests out of recognition and replacing them with weed infested wastelands leaving weed problems that will be virtually impossible to control.

It is a great pity that community third party rights to prosecute breaches due to ill conceived laws have been removed.

It is shameful that a multinational is allowed to continue profiting from the destruction of Australian wild life.

Unsustainable wood supply agreements would cease immediately if the federal government bought them out.

The release of various discussion papers for the Native Vegetation and Private Native Forestry Reviews disclosed that the aim of the reviews was to reduce red tape, streamline service delivery for land holders, give greater flexibility and more practical rules while reducing compliance enforcement by "supporting voluntary compliance".

Cutting 'red tape' included removing some duplication, such as no longer having to apply to different agencies, or even two levels of government which, in many cases, previously provided crucial checks and balances.

There has long been concerns over the loss of carbon contained in forests, the loss of biodiversity, the need to protect water catchments and the effects loss of forest cover has on soils.

From chats to mill operators I learnt that available timber quality in the foreseeable future along with profits instead of losses would be improved if Forestry NSW immediately stopped converting native forests into mono cultural plantations.

The big task laying ahead for Forestry now is to help the native forests recover.

And when the forests recover, highly trained people, not machines, should be employed to harvest them in a way that is truly sustainable.

Native forests preserved intact are the most effective carbon sinks.

I was heartened to learn that Forestry workers at long last are to be educated about the value of habitat trees, their surrounds and the animals and birds that rely on them.

Thankyou for giving me the opportunity to comment and to be present at the Grafton meeting.

Margaret McCue 29/3/14