

I am writing to voice my opinion on the NSW Regional Forest Agreements.

As a long term resident of the south east, I have witnessed first hand the devastating effect of the (RFAs) over the past 20 years. I have seen long trucks speed through my town, unhindered by speed limits, forests that I knew and loved as a child, obliterated beyond recognition. Creeks and rivers degraded by tones of silt and sand due to the continued clearing.

We are in a time when we need to start being real about our environmental protection. No more green washing and lip service about so called 'sustainable' logging practices. This large-scale clearing and deforestation no longer makes any sense. Whether you see it in terms of habitat fragmentation, species loss and extinction. Or the value of our forests as carbon offsets in a time when we really cannot be swaying the planet any further into dangerous climate change. Or the intrinsic value that our forests have to us, the local inhabitants of this area, our children and grandchildren. Or the value that our relatively intact and beautiful environment has in terms of tourism and bringing much needed money into our area.

The forestry industry is a dinosaur, its is surviving on government grants and subsidies, it is turning our valuable forests into chip for crap low grade products. It is ridiculous, laughable even, accept that it is so so sad.

Please see sense, please listen to reason and science. You have a responsibility to protect our environment for the good of the Australian people and this RFA is not good, has never been good for the environment or our people.

Thank you for considering my submission
Rebecca Blunden