
Renewal of RFAs

1 message

> To: forests@industry.nsw.gov.au

Mon, Mar 12, 2018 at 6:07 PM

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to oppose the renewal of the Regional Forest Agreements. I am a zoologist, concerned citizen and voter, and the renewal of the RFAs makes no sense in this day and age and is not necessary.

Over 1,800 species are listed as Threatened in Australia. Most species found in Australia exist nowhere else on the planet. Loss of habitat is the major threat to our flora and fauna. In my lifetime of 52 years, I have seen once-common species decline alarmingly, shrinking in range and genetic diversity as populations become fragmented and stressors associated with loss of suitable shelter, food, territory, mates, and thoroughfares increase and weaken immune systems and cause disease events. The habit loss is caused by development and industry, notably logging of old growth forests, mature trees and associated vegetation understories.

Our native forests provide vital services to ourselves and other animals. Slash and burn truly is death by a thousand cuts and when carried out in other countries such as Indonesia, is viewed by most Australians and barbaric and out-dated. It's only because most Australians buy the forestry industry's glossy advertising and know so little about their own unique wildlife (compared to orangutans and Sumatran tigers) that there is not more alarm at how our timber industry manages the country's forests. and puts our animals at risk.

Using the call of JOBS!!! does not cut it anymore. Saving forests and biodiversity is a far more sustainable use of our forests than obliterating them, altering the microclimate/soil/water and exterminating species. The management of our forests has been appalling to say the least, and jobs have already been lost due to the poor management of this industry. I fail to see the out cry when new technology replaces numerous occupations that were once common - it's called Progress, and the forestry industry in this country needs a total overhaul to put it in line with other First World nations who value their natural resources as a gift for all citizens for perpetuity and recognise that now is a time for saving wild spaces not destroying them.

Countless scientists have provided advice detailing factually why renewing the RFAs is a terrible idea. These people have their own jobs and expertise, no less important than the forestry workers government and the industry view as so valuable. Why are trained experts who have no economic or political barrow to push not listened to? What is the point of having scientists if you chose not to heed their advice for long-term health and prosperity of the environment and society and instead choose biased sources for short-term gain?

In my lifetime I will see further species become threatened and go extinct. With the title as the worst rate of mammal extinctions in the world, and in less than 250 years, all I can see is that this is a trajectory the government and timber industry are happy to pursue. Our children deserve better, and so too does our flora and fauna, who exist in their own right, not as collateral damage or wood chips to be shipped off to our neighbours and later returned to us.

The time for change is NOW. This government, and the various unsustainable industries such as old growth logging, need to seriously stop the wholesale slaughter of our plants and animals and destruction of the environment in order to ensure a healthy and productive future for ALL Australians for the long-term future. No renewal of the RFAs, and a complete reassessment of how we manage this oldest of lands with her most amazing plants, animals and land forms. It's a challenge, but something this country desperately needs to do for future economic, health and ethical growth.

Yours Sincerely,

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