

**Margaret McCue**

**COFFS HARBOUR**

**SUBMISSION TO THE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE on**  
**THE REVIEW OF THE NATIVE VEGETATION ACT REGULATION**

**I am outraged by clearing operations now being carried out in native forests without regard to slope, water catchment, koala and other wildlife habitat.**

**I fear that the provisions in the regulations now under review will not carry enough clout to stop the type of abuse which is now occurring.**

**Most of the problems arising in our native forests arise from the lack of scientific and independent supervision of forestry operations.**

**Much of the abuse of NSW Native Forests can be traced to the wood supply agreement with Boral.**

**This agreement should be reviewed at once and the licence revoked so that Forestry will not be supplying any more wood than can be harvested sustainably.**

**The impact of industrialised logging and the virtual clear fell that it entails in combination with the threat from feral animals, weeds, road kill and development is causing wildlife slaughter on a grand scale.**

**Words cannot convey the barbarity and absurdity of the existing situation in a part of the planet already identified as having the sixth greatest extinction crisis.**

**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 taken away and it is shameful that a multinational is allowed to continue profiting from the destruction of Australian wild life.

From the release of the various discussion papers for the Native Vegetation and Private Native Forestry Reviews we learn that the aim of the reviews is 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' includes 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.

The proposed RAMA regulations unfortunately do not address the cumulative effects of clearing small land holdings.

There should be acknowledgement that on small holdings the present regulations allow all trees to be removed without permission. The cumulated effects could be a disaster in some areas as it would destroy wildlife corridors.

Further the existence of a number of complicated definitions and exemptions results in many cases where clearing occurs without permits.

The regulations would be improved and more easily understood if standards in force for bush fire protection were adopted into it.

The RAMA should also be altered to address the areas which can be cleared without permission - along with a more realistic boundary set

**between the Coast and the West.**

**Ideally:-**

- . unsustainable wood supply agreements should cease immediately with the federal government buying them out**
- . Forest NSW should immediately stop converting native forests into monocultural plantations**
- . Industrialised logging should be stopped immediately**
- . Native forests would be preserved intact as the most effective carbon sink**

**And when the forests recover, highly trained people, not machines need to harvest in a way that is truly sustainable.**

**Thankyou for giving me the opportunity to comment.**

**Margaret McCue 21/8/12**