
From: Mark Smith **Sent:** Wednesday, 22 August 2012 6:13 PM
To: EHPP Landscapes & Ecosystems Section Mailbox
Subject: Comments on the Draft Native Forestry Code of Practice for Southern NSW

Native Vegetation Regulation Review ,
Environment Protection Authority
PO Box A290
Sydney South NSW 1232

Comments on the Draft Native Forestry Code of Practice for Southern NSW ,

Dear Environment and Protection Authority,

I am aware of issues in the final draft code of practice through having witnessed some of the more negative aspects of the interim act in the Mount Rae forest. I welcome this opportunity to comment .

I ask that any code contain the requirement for professional surveys before logging approvals are given. How can any claims of the code protecting biodiversity and preventing environmental harm –as is stated in its aims- when there is no requirement to identify these same values on properties for logging?

Another aim of the code is that it be for sustainable timber products. I know that currently it is being used to buy native forest land and then proceed to log them for nothing better than firewood . I do not consider that logging threatened species habitat for such a low end product as firewood (which is happening in Mount Rae forest) meets the aims of providing society with timber . It also cannot meet the aims of the code that it be in the “common good” nor help future generations, when it is contributing to global warming and adding to loss of biodiversity.

I have been objecting to Upper Lachlan Shire Council over this development in the past and written to the State Government in the past.

The Southern Tablelands was subject to one of the worst droughts on record with Goulburn being reduced to trucking in fresh water at one point .

As a water professional I have travelled to many parts of the world including India, China, Vietnam and have experience first-hand how the destruction of natural water assets and catchment pollution has greatly impacted local communities, it seem incongruous to me that for the sake of a low value add industry such as the production of firewood we in Australia would expose our catchments to this level of degradation.

I would also ask the EPA how they expect the clearing of trees on the top of the Great Dividing Range as is happening at Mount Rae to the allowed level under the code of 30 degrees of slope will protect water quality and not add to run off and erosion? I am aware that the Sydney Water Authority opposed this operation in the past because of the lack of information supplied on the effects on water quality .

How can any logging of such important catchment be commenced without the approval of the appropriate water catchment authority?

I for the above reasons I ask the EPA and the Environment Minister to take action and change the final code to meet these objectives.

Sincerely

Mark Smith
Cronulla