

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

Grahame Logan

Dear Environment and Protection Authority Officer,

I have witnessed an ongoing saga concerning PNF logging in the Mount Rae forest area and am thankful for the opportunity to comment on the Southern PNF Code final draft.

Having both friend and relatives in the area I have visited many times and am personally appalled to see a law purporting to protect biodiversity is being perverted to log a forest that DEC had targeted for protection into commercial firewood.

How can the PNF act meet the objectives of protecting non wood values and our future needs when it is being used to increase carbon emissions and is allowed in threatened wildlife species habitat without the need for any environmental surveying.

I would ask that the final draft include the need for independent ecological surveying and remove any loopholes that allow people to use this act to target the remaining forests of the Southern Tablelands for firewood. I am aware of the claims of forestry groups in the area that they wish to use PNF legislation to log millions of trees across the region and supply and promote firewood use in Canberra and Sydney as some form of natural renewable biofuel . Granting of biodiversity certification to their plans would send a clear message from the government that you agree with such fiction that these forestry operations would improve forests for biodiversity. Any politically sensitive government would take actions to ensure they cannot be used in such a manner and the Environment Protection Authority should change the current act accordingly.

I have seen locals, Landcare and many other groups oppose this logging in the past . [REDACTED] councillors voted against it and the scientists of the [REDACTED] visited this area and stated that removal of trees would have negative impacts on Federally listed rare orchids, the disappearing forests of the area and their threatened fauna species.

I have written to Upper Lachlan Shire councillors in the past, as well as letters to both the Goulburn Post and the Crookwell Gazette and also to my local newspaper , The Glebe , with my own views that logging forests for firewood contributes to greenhouse gas emissions worsening the impacts of climate change. It appears very hypocritical to me when government scientists call for protection of Mount Rae Forest's non –wood values and then the Minister ignores their own advice then why ask for professional advise in the first place To make matters worse we are asked to

plant trees and decrease carbon emissions while the Minister approves large scale firewood clearing in threatened species habitat. I had the opportunity a couple of years ago to meet with my local I member and then Environment Minister , Verity Firth about this issue Her response to me was that Mount Rae forest was a sad case and laws will always have examples where they unfortunately do not work (no wonder she got kicked out of office) This is, combined with being told that the head of PNF in the past publicly described the Mount Rae case as an “anomaly” has done nothing to inspire my confidence in the current act. I must question how many other anomalies and unfortunate cases are happening even consider giving the okay to commercial logging in an area where any large forest remnants are rare regardless of classification.

It would appear that all levels of government encourage individuals to plant trees to maintain water quality, provide habitat, store carbon and provide clean air to protect our future, while firewood merchants are given the green light to buy up and log the life out of the few forests and woodlands left in the Southern Tablelands.

I would therefore ask that my views be considered and that meaningful actions be taken to rectify the above situation.

Thank You

Grahame Logan



Annandale 2038