

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

Environment and Protection Authority,

I am aware of this forestry code because the current interim act is being used for firewood logging on lands near where I live in Mount Rae forest. I have been informed that this was allowed without the need for environmental surveys and that these forestry operations are now self regulating. I have been made aware of the past findings of threatened species in this forest and that government scientists and local council originally put a stop to firewood clearing in 2005. Did those in charge of this forestry code consult these professional ecologists in their department before both approving the same operation and compiling this draft code?

I have a copy of the introduction of the code which states .

The introduction to the code states:

“The object of this Private Native Forestry Code of Practice (the Code) is to ensure that a regular supply of timber products can be maintained indefinitely for present and future generations from privately owned forests and Crown land that is not Crown-timber land within the meaning of the Forestry Act 1916, while at the same time maintaining non-wood values at or above target levels considered necessary by society to prevent environmental harm and provide environmental services for the common good.”

How does logging large areas of native forests in the Southern Tablelands for commercial firewood qualify as a genuine sustainable timber product?

I also question that the logging happening in Mount Rae forest, which is verified habitat for a number of threatened species, can be considered to prevent environmental harm when the existing code does not require any environmental surveying and relies entirely on self regulation. How does commercial level clearing in such forests meet the needs of society in preventing biodiversity loss in this State or decreasing carbon emissions when others are asked to protect these areas, plant trees to link to them and reduce their carbon footprint? How does this meet the aim of the code in providing environmental service for the common good?

Thanks for the opportunity to make comment and I ask that the current draft code be amended to reflect the need for independent professional environmental surveys and prevent the code being used by commercial level logging for firewood.

Regards



(I would ask that my details be kept confidential)