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The



# Potoroo

Review

\$2

No. 202

Environment East Gippsland



## We're SUING the government again!

Environment East Gippsland has again commenced proceedings in the Supreme Court (21/5/13). This time to sue the Department of Environment and Primary Industries for years of failure to protect Victoria's threatened wildlife.

There's a big difference between being *listed* as threatened and actually being *protected*.

We are alleging that the State Government has again violated the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act. When a species is listed as rare or threatened the government is then obliged to prepare a protection plan called an Action Statement "as soon as possible".

Our four representative species have been waiting for a protection plan for between 10-18 years! They are the Glossy Black Cockatoo, the Long-nosed Potoroo, the Eastern She-oak Skink and the Large Brown Tree Frog.

These four struggling species represent the other 370 listed plants and animals that also have no legal protection despite them being extremely rare and listed under the Act.

### Brown Mountain case exposed more problems

When EEG won the Supreme Court case in 2010, we proved that VicForests had failed to survey for and protect endangered forest wildlife for decades.

VicForests was forced to then survey for and identify rare



animals. But they kept destroying them and their habitat. How so? As the government has not written up plans to protect over half of all rare species, VicForests claims it is not obliged to protect them.



We have amazing animals that exist nowhere else on earth, but laws made to protect them have been violated by the government for years.

The state government is knowingly and effectively guaranteeing the extinction of Victoria's amazing native wildlife.

**This case will cost us thousands of dollars and we are asking for any assistance you can offer. Tax deductible donations for 2012/13 can be made to EEG via GiveNow: <http://www.givenow.com.au/environmenteastgippsland2> or hit the 'donate' button on the top left of our homepage [www.eastgippsland.net.au](http://www.eastgippsland.net.au) or send a cheque via post - EEG, Locked Bag 3, ORBOST 3888**

This case it is expected to be more straightforward than the epic Brown Mountain case.

Jill

# The Potoroo Review

This is the newsletter of Environment East Gippsland, Australia's longest running forest campaign group. We bring you the facts about forests and the environment that rarely make it in to the mainstream media. We tell it like it is and never need worry about biting the government's hand as it never feeds us. We rely totally on memberships and donations to keep bailing up the Planet despoilers.



**Membership - \$20 or \$15 conc. (includes newsletter).**

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Coordinator - Jill Redwood

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## Tax deductible donations

can be sent to us at the above address made out to EEG. Receipts will be issued promptly.

The Potoroo is an endangered 'mini kangaroo' which survives in East Gippsland's forests. It eats fungi, so digs a lot of dirt, and like us, is often threatened by loggers.

Articles which appear in the *Potoroo* are the opinions of the authors' and not necessarily those of EEG.

**Printed by Black Rainbow Printing on Recycled Supreme 100% - made from 100% post consumer waste, de-inked and bleached (chlorine free process), using soya based ink.**

## Long time no hear!

Yes, we're still at it! But the Forces of Darkness have become even more forceful and dark, with new attacks weekly.

## OUR LEGAL WORK

**Amongst other things, EEG's legal teams (yes plural!) are working on two more court challenges due to begin soon. It's now or never and although our funds won't stretch that far we're asking for your help again.**

One might really knock their socks off (Secret Squirrel stuff just yet). These cases should start within the next few months.

## Regular updates and snippets

As with most communication these days, we are moving towards the electronic forms of updates and news to keep in touch with our supporters. The hard copy *Potoroo* is a lot of work (usually two full weeks). If you could possibly join us to keep up with the news on email, our website or the EEG Facebook page, it would be more reliable than waiting for the now rare paper *Potoroo*. Find us here on facebook [www.facebook.com/EnvironmentEastGippsland](http://www.facebook.com/EnvironmentEastGippsland) or here on our webpage: [www.eastgippsland.net.au](http://www.eastgippsland.net.au) or click on the Potoroo to receive E-bulletins.

We hope to bring you more exciting news on our next court challenge in a month or so via facebook, our website and the E bulletin. I'm unsure when I can produce another paper *Potoroo*. Sorry.

Jill.



# JILL'S JOTTING

## Tax-deductible donations – for our legal work

These cases are not cheap. If you'd like to make a tax-deductible donation, we guarantee that EEG is the place where you'll get the most enviro bang for your buck in Australia. We have minimal overheads, no wages, and a proven track record of feisty determination ... and importantly, major wins!

All dollars go directly to where they do the most good for our forests and wildlife.

Please send a tax-deductible donation to Environment East Gippsland, Locked Bag 3, ORBOST 3888, via direct deposit (call Jill on 5154 0145 or [EEG@eastgippsland.net.au](mailto:EEG@eastgippsland.net.au) for bank acct number), via <http://www.givenow.com.au/environmenteastgippsland> or through our website's donation button.



## Environment disappears into new mega department



The merging of the Department of Sustainability and Environment (Liberal minister Ryan Smith) and the Department of Primary Industries (Nationals minister Peter Walsh) is now called DEPI, the Dept of Environment and Primary Industries. Environment Minister Ryan Smith seems to have gone missing though.

Is he out in the back paddock chipping thistles? Meanwhile Peter Walsh is opening the gate to the logging and mining industries, developers, tree clearers, shooters and prospectors. He seems happy to have them write the government's policies and laws.

Our environment is in the critical ward, and its recovery is now in the hands of a bunch of arrogant, profit obsessed, bogans.

Jill





# We win again!

## Government backs out of rainforest sites

Last year we began legal proceedings against VicForests for its plan to log inside National Sites of Rainforest Significance – *against the law*.

We launched another court action and in November 2012 VicForests agreed to an out of court settlement. It agreed to comply with the law by not logging nine areas and not cross over the boundaries of another six sites.

Department of Sustainability & Environment is obliged to protect all Rainforest Sites of National Significance by including them in the reserve system. They still fail to provide that basic protection for nationally significant rainforest sites, but VicForests has at least rescheduled logging out of these areas—and it knows we're watching!

### More Good News Environmental law disaster *didn't* happen!

The Business Council of Australia almost forced the Gillard government to hand over most Federal Environment powers to the states, at a COAG meeting in late 2012. This would have been an unparalleled disaster for Australia.

After a combined campaign from Australia's environment groups, Julia Gillard back-stepped in December. Even the politically cautious Sir David Attenborough made a public statement against this plan, which was a powerful shot for our side.

Ms Gillard then told the states that unless they can all agree to operate under the same framework, it won't happen. The plan could resurface though, especially if the Tony Abbott led nightmare manages to get in.

Here's just one small example why the Feds MUST NOT hand the states responsibility for our environment:

In August 2012, Hancock Plantations was forced to pay \$305,000 to repair damage done to a critically endangered grassland in south western Victoria – under *Federal* law (EPBC Act). That was for destroying 0.7ha of a protected rare Temperate Grassland of the Volcanic Plains.

In comparison - VicForests wantonly destroyed 8ha of protected rainforest in East Gippsland. DSE, the *state* regulating body told it to be good for 12 months and dropped the case against VicForests.



### Public toilet sign tickles the public



Seen in East Gippsland over the holidays. We put this on our EEG Facebook page and last count was 9,000 views! It obviously struck a chord with many people.

### Federal and State laws clash

Our sister group 'MyEnvironment' has identified a legal clash between the EPBC Act and the RFA Act. It believes our protected state faunal emblem, the Leadbeaters Possum, is having its habitat cleared against the state/federal forests agreement (RFA) from the late 1990s. They are using evidence that was raised during their previous court case to ask Tony Burke's environment department to investigate.



### Leadbeaters Possum puts VicForests back in court

The esteemed Julian Burnside QC will represent Central Highland's environment group MyEnvironment in the Supreme court of appeal. The case will appeal last year's decision to allow the logging of Leadbeaters habitat despite strong grounds for its protection using the precautionary principle.

Get along and take a front row seat to witness one of Australia's best QCs test whether the law can in fact protect endangered wildlife from extinction. The case will be heard on the 24th of June 2013 in the Supreme Court. For more information on this history making event - [www.myenvironment.net.au/](http://www.myenvironment.net.au/)

# Tasmania's 'peace' (fleece) deal

Are you confused about the Tasmanian Forest deal? Those who signed off on the deal say it's better than nothing. Those who were outside watching say it's just given the logging industry everything they need to kick start destruction again.

Three years ago Tasmania's woodchip industry collapsed. All three export mills closed. Logging companies made a public plea to environmentalists to help work out a rescue deal. It was expected to be an exit agreement.

In December 2012 a very bad deal was struck, but after polities in Tasmania's Upper House got hold of it in April 2013, it became thoroughly evil. For whatever reason though, the environmental negotiators and four of the five Tassie Greens MPs signed off on it.

## The final deal - a dud

The 500,000 hectares being asked for *might* be delivered into reserves in a couple of years, providing that:

- \$350 million of federal money is immediately given to the Tasmanian Government, loggers and their towns.
- The three signatory green groups do their best to silence other environment groups and prevent them from organising 'substantial' protests against logging and,
- ensure there are no 'substantial' campaigns against buyers of Tasmanian forest logs, timber or woodchips (market campaign).
- These three groups (ACF, TWS and Environment Tasmania) must also *actively promote* the

products to overseas customers (not just stop campaigning against the products).

- Forestry Tasmania is awarded eco-certification (FSC) for its logging management.

All this depends on Labor staying in power in Tasmania. The Liberals promised to tear up the deal if they win government in 2014.

## Blackmail deal signed

*This is Blackmail – or as Bob Brown called it—Greenmail.* It's against the law and very likely to be unconstitutional.

First off, 80,000 ha will be delivered up front into a reserve. The remaining 420,000 ha of forest will be held hostage for a year or two in case there are protests, while the industry shores up their overseas buyers—with the help of the three groups. If Forestry Tasmania (FT) misses out on being eco-certified the 420,000 is also lost.

When FT doesn't gain the green tick for its cable logging, clearfelling, rainforest and wildlife destruction, then the hostage forests get bulldozer management and the rate of logging will treble. Good deal?

The fact that the environment groups can't promise, manipulate or facilitate eco-certification (independent auditors do that job), was not taken into account when the Upper House added this crazy proviso. This alone will mean the deal will fall over and no reserves will be delivered.

Then after this was signed on May



1<sup>st</sup>, Forestry Tasmania immediately set about goading environment groups and targeted three areas of habitat for the endangered Swift Parrot! This has since been put on hold for a few months, but shows the lack of goodwill being offered by the state logging agency.

## From collapse to recovery

So, from a certain collapse in 2010 to this newly resuscitated industry in 2013. It has millions in handouts again and three major green groups seconded to help: sell the spoils of forest destruction, silence all other Tasmanian green groups, agree to getting eco-certification for the state's appalling logging regime, and oh yes – cause serious rifts and distrust between them and other environment groups.

What a deal!

## Will it come to the mainland?

This atrocious agreement is being suggested as a template for similar talks to be held on the mainland. But after this unfathomable shocker, state environment groups should steer well clear of similar set-ups.

Jill

For those without access to internet, please ignore the links to websites. The clickable links are for those who receive the electronic version of the Potoroo.

## Logging looks to welfare bailouts to ward off undertakers

### Native forest logging contributes 0.15% to 0.20% to Australia's GDP.

This is a miniscule amount for the damage and destruction it causes. Yet it has dominated the minds and energies of politicians and policy makers for decades? But could the end be near? With the overseas woodchip markets steering clear of Australia's offerings, this could be a tipping point for our forests' future. Burning for electricity is their only savior.

<http://www.crikey.com.au/2013/01/18/timber-looks-to-bailouts-concessions-to-ward-off-undertakers/>





## Logging - a WASTE of forests

The Australia Institute (TAI) has released a brilliant new infographic on what ends up as waste and woodchips from a Tassie forest. It'd be similar in East Gippsland. It's a pity that it only counts trees, and not the entire make-up of a forest though. Trees can be 50-60% of some forests' biomass - so the sums on what's wasted and burnt would be much worse.  
[www.eastgippsland.net.au/?q=node/823](http://www.eastgippsland.net.au/?q=node/823)

TAI's report shows that on average, every 100 tonnes of trees that are felled make only three tonnes of sawn wood and wood-panels (e.g. MDF). A further four tonnes out of the 100 becomes domestic paper products and 23 tonnes are exported as woodchips. The 70 tonnes left is waste: 65 tonnes in every hundred is logging residues and five tonnes becomes processing waste that is burnt for energy or turned into mulch.

Contrary to the claims of the industry, the main 'product' from logging is in fact WASTE. This is one of the reasons why state forestry agencies struggle to make a profit from a resource they don't pay for. They only stay afloat thanks to your and my taxes propping this show up!  
<http://www.crikey.com.au/2012/12/14/the-waste-in-tasmanias-forests-most-lumber-left-to-rot/>

## Mt Jersey Giants

In March 2011, VicForests was crowing about its new giant tree protection policy (read story <http://www.eastgippsland.net.au/?q=node/850>). VicForests said then that their new policy on giant trees will also "see every effort made to protect trees which are greater than 3m in diameter". That's 9.4mts circumference.

Many tree stumps that remain after a stand of Mt Jersey's old growth forest was logged over summer and burnt at Easter, measure in at

between 7.15m, to 10.9m circumference.

The area of old growth forest still to be cleared near Mount Jersey totals 116 hectares – which is equivalent to 50 football fields. Previously these forest areas were designated as Special Protection Zones for rare wildlife and old growth values. They became part of the 2,507 hectares of protected public forests rezoned as logging areas in August 2012.

Jill



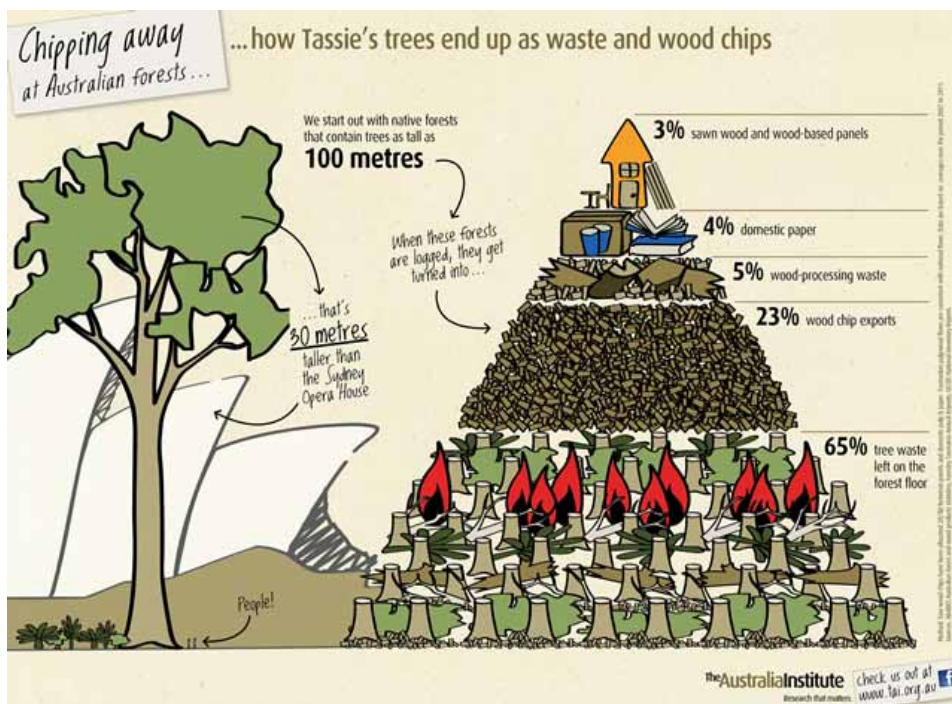
## What price 'cowboy cred'?



So how much did it cost the Victorian tax-payer to fund the fiasco of government face-saving? What price was the challenge in the Federal Court to Tony Burke's decision to ban cattle grazing in the Alpine National Park? The costly challenge was all to maintain credibility with a handful of cowmen wanting free agistment.

EEG has applied for the costs under FOI. We were first told they didn't have the *total* costs because all the bills hadn't arrived. We wrote again in five months. We'll let you know when we receive the figures.

Jill





**Please tell your energy retailers NOT to go near biomass electricity.**

**Please write to them when you pay your next bill or go on line and send a message to 30 at once with a few clicks of the mouse.**

<http://nativeforests.good.do/dont-trash-forests-for-bioenergy/say-no-to-a-biomassacre/>

Ask for an assurance that they won't be selling any electricity that's generated from burning native forest wood - even if termed 'waste'.

The forestry and energy industries are currently pushing their plans to feed our forests into furnaces to produce electricity, or convert them into bio-fuels like ethanol, or into pellets for export to overseas furnaces.

The industry is calling this 'renewable energy' because they coax trees to grow back again (but

not a forest). It wants the government to help pay for this logging plan in the form of 'renewable energy certificates' at the community's expense.

**Will BIO-ENERGY be the cause of the next wave of forest massacres?**

If this plan eventuates (and we suspect Abbott loves this idea), such ultra destructive electricity would **compete against genuine renewable energy** like solar and wind power. How so? The assistance to help encourage the genuine renewable industry is limited. So if forest furnaces applied for and received credits, a genuine clean energy company would miss out. It's imperative politicians don't support this industry as 'renewable'.

But more importantly, we need people to join us to show the energy industry and energy retailers, that **we will not buy electricity from any company that does not guarantee that it will never sell electricity generated from native forests—of any description.**

Jill



## Forest burner plan falls over for Eden

**Great news! The Eden export woodchip mill's plan to convert our forests into fuel to burn for electricity has failed. One down!**

SEFE's pellet plant would have processed forests into tiny pellets to export elsewhere to burn. It has



now been declared a big white elephant. Just before this failed, the Victorian Association of Forest

Industries awarded the Eden woodchip mill a prize for its 'environmental initiatives' and 'the innovative nature of our industry ....'. Translated that means – *now that the export woodchip market has slumped SEFE is extra clever at finding new excuses to knock down forests.*

The chipmill's future could now have a serious economic wobble, but they are hanging in there despite recording an after tax loss of \$2.6 million for 2012.

Thanks to the great work by the SE conservation groups SERCA and Chipstop who kept this one in the limelight..

Jill

## Plantation euc logs now exceed native forest logs

Logs from Australia's eucalypt plantations has grown five fold, from 975 000 m<sup>3</sup> in 2000–01 to 5.2 million m<sup>3</sup> in 2011–12. Plantation logs (both eucalypt and pine) now comprise **81%** of Australia's total log harvest, compared to **56%** in 2000–01.

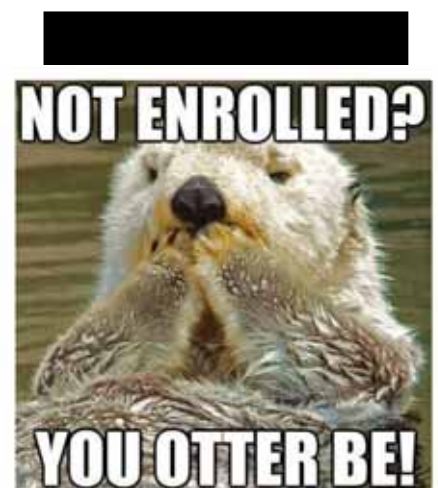


Hardwood plantations are grown almost exclusively for woodchips for domestic paper production and for woodchip exports. Pine and its glued and engineered products can be used to replace almost every building application that hardwood has traditionally been used for.

The ABARES report said that overall, the supply of logs from both hardwood and softwood plantations in Australia was 19.2 million cubic metres in 2011–12, compared to 4.5 million cubic metres from native forests.

The report, *Australian forest and wood products statistics* is available on the ABARES website at [www.daff.gov.au/abares/publications](http://www.daff.gov.au/abares/publications)

Dept Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry media release. 6.6.13





# Planned logging laws = unfettered infinity logging

If passed, this Bill to alter the Sustainable Forests (Timber) Act will formalise a new 'cut-out-and-get-out' style of forest management in the short term as well as pay millions to the logging industry in the long term.

The proposed Amendments to this law governing native forest logging will hand full powers to VicForests (the profit-driven semi government entity in charge of logging public forests) and it will expose the state of Victoria to payouts worth hundreds of millions to the industry players. This change to the law mirrors closely what the logging lobby group, AFPA's submission demanded.

## The changes would:

1. Promise unlimited logging contracts (currently licenses have five year reviews).
2. Remove government oversight of VicForests' activities.
3. Effectively privatise the exploitation of the state's most valuable public natural asset.
4. Promise to supply logs into the future that may not exist, due to fire, drought regeneration failure, poor estimates, etc.
5. Expose the tax-payer and government to paying hundreds of millions in compensation when/if the trees can't be provided.
6. See forests managed by purely commercial interests with token to no concern for tourism, environment, heritage, aesthetic or water values.
7. Make it impossible to alter the law if the wood/trees have been promised to a private company by VicForests. The government must provide the logs or pay massive compensation (our taxes).
8. Allow VicForests Board of Directors to decide when, where and how much it will clearfell in logging zones.
9. Remove govt. environmental oversight of logging.

It would also override and ignore the Auditor General's current investigation of VicForests' management. Passing this bill now

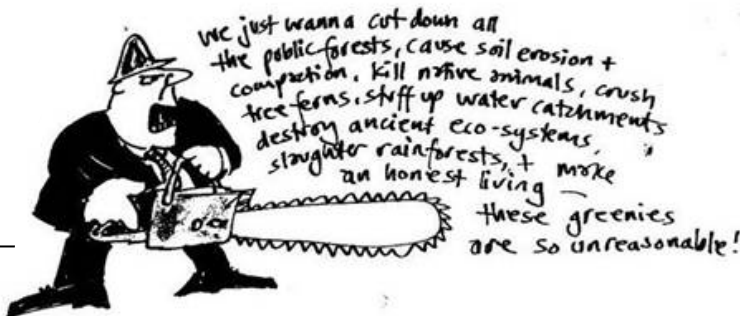
will make any recommendations from the audit pointless.

This proposed change of the law is a desperate attempt to maintain a dying industry that is losing its traditional markets for sawn hardwood timber and export woodchips. It hopes to encourage even more destructive industries to use forests as a feedstock for biomass burning for electricity and processing into fuel. (*Timber Industry Action Plan*. Dec 2011). Hence this 'overkill Bill' to entice prospective investors and industries that want cheap wood as a raw material.

VicForests has been found to be consistently over-logging, logging unlawfully, unaccountably and in the face of enormous and escalating public opposition. Environmental regulations for logging should be strengthened not diminished.

The Bill is due to be debated in late June so could be decided upon before this goes to press.

Jill






## \$upport our forests and spread the message

Environment East Gippsland has a selection of calico bags and other merchandise for sale via our online shop. Check out the other designs and merchandise on our website <http://www.eastgippsland.net.au/shop>



# CLIMATE

# AND FIRE NEWS

## Govt burns outdo bushfires

The bushfires of 2012-13 in Victoria covered around 130-150,000 ha. The government has proudly announced it has burnt almost twice that - 250,000 ha of forest this Autumn!

This is one massive unscientific landscape-scale experiment based on politicians trying to placate nervous voters, rather than ensure effective asset protection (see previous *Potoroos*).

As a result it has added around **18.3 million tonnes of carbon dioxide** to the atmosphere (about 20 tonnes a hectare of stored carbon is burnt over 250,000ha x 3.67 being the carbon to CO<sup>2</sup> calculation). This is equal to the annual pollution that the state's dirtiest old power station Hazelwood puts out and more CO<sup>2</sup> than agriculture's annual emissions. It has also:

- Taken out healthy functioning **ground soils' duff and compost layers** which keeps the soil damp, cool – and fire resistant.
- Burnt the **fungi** that are so important for 'digesting' leaves, twigs and even logs.



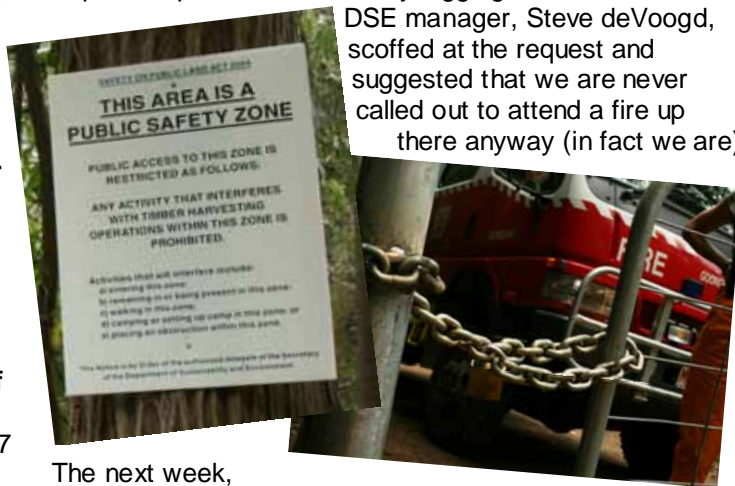
- Taken out ground level habitat for **micro-organisms that provide food for small birds, lizards and frogs** – the basis of a forest's food chain.
- Wiped out large areas of cover for **ground dwelling wildlife**, exposing them to predation, exposure and starvation.
- Ignorantly destroyed the habitat of many **rare and threatened plants and animals**. There are no surveys done before igniting large patches of forest, even when defined as 'ecological burns'.
- Burnt out and destroyed thousands of **highly valuable hollow bearing trees**, critical for so much rare wildlife.
- Exposed delicate soils to **rain wash and erosion**.

Jill

## VicForests lock fire access roads - then fire starts

So why wasn't the local CFA notified when the fire started just 20 minutes away? Because locals had previously asked the DSE to ensure the locked gates on a major fire access road from the small settlement were opened for fire safety access.

VicForests had cemented gates into the road in an attempt to prevent protests at a nearby logging site. The Orbost DSE manager, Steve deVoogd, scoffed at the request and suggested that we are never called out to attend a fire up there anyway (in fact we are).



The next week, gates were still illegally locked and a lightning strike started a fire *inside* the logging area! Our local CFA could have been there in 20 minutes, but instead the fire spread further than it needed to and threatened the nearby telecommunications tower.

### Why excluded the public from forests?

All this happened the day before Christmas. Earlier we had convinced Minister Walsh to rescind the law that allowed VicForests to exclude people from large areas of public land. One logging area of about 30ha had a 10,000 ha public exclusion zone! The gates, by law, **SHOULD** have been opened. The road accesses the National Park, and is used for fire safety and general use.

How embarrassing for DSE and VicForests if the local 'greenie' CFA crew was to put their fire out **INSIDE** their logging area. But even more embarrassing if this fire had escaped and burnt thousands of hectares of forest not to mention endangering the lives of people locally. Luckily it was contained, despite the slower response time from Orbost, over an hour away. Locals were understandably outraged! Read more - <http://www.eastgippsland.net.au/?q=node/824>

Jill

There are NO published empirical data on how these aspects of fire mosaics will affect native plants, animals and ecosystem processes in Victoria – and yet fire management in Victoria has committed to large-scale implementation of this new approach, and a greatly increased burn area each year. Although there is a general aim to achieve a proportional mix of age-classes determined by the life-cycles of plant species regarded as key fire response species, to date, there are **no specific guidelines or goals** for what **kind of mosaic** is desired **within** each landscape burn.

Dissenting report to the Bushfire Royal Commission, Prof. Michael Clarke, p14.



## Coal power emits 50 times the CO<sub>2</sub> of bushfires

Despite an uninformed declaration from a certain politician, bushfires this year in Oz have emitted an amount of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent to 2% of Australia's annual emissions from coal-fired power. (Read more here - <http://www.eastgippsland.net.au/?q=node/739>)

The guess dressed as fact was declared by acting Opposition leader, Warren Truss on January 9th:

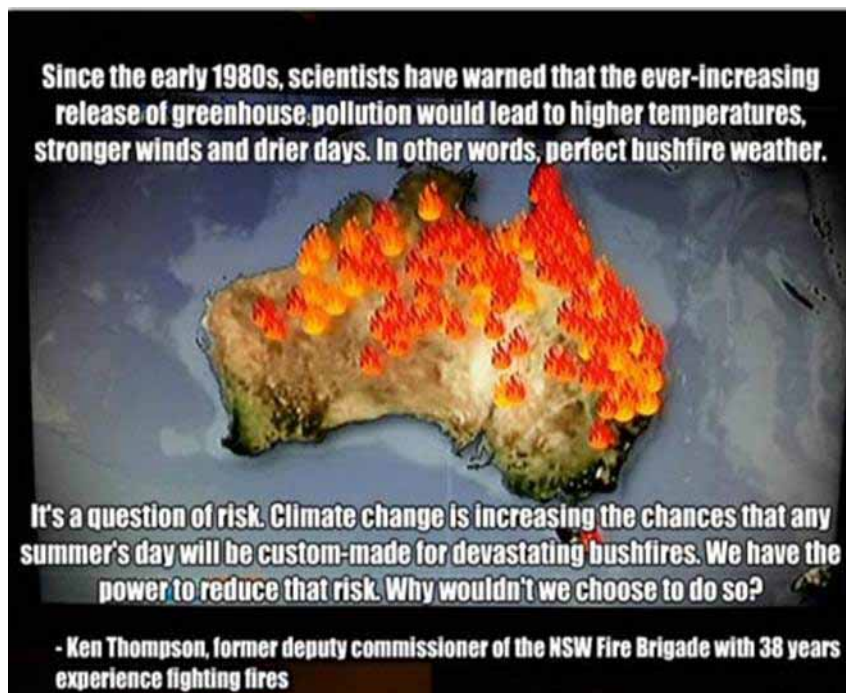
*Indeed I guess there'll be more CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from these fires than there will be from coal-fired power stations for decades.*

Phil Gibbons, Senior Lecturer at ANU was prompted to do some sums.

Coal-fired power stations in Australia emit around 200 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per year. Around 30 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per forested hectare were emitted by the [Black Saturday Fires in 2009](#).

Bushfires last fire season burned around 130,000ha of forest, so have emitted nearly 4 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>. So, the bushfires this year have emitted an amount of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent to 2% of Australia's annual emissions from coal-fired power.

Also, the carbon emitted from bushfires is not permanent. Forests regenerate after fire, and will quickly begin to sequester from the atmosphere the carbon that had been lost from the bushfire. Recapturing fossil carbon will take millions of years. <http://theconversation.edu.au/fact-check-do-bushfires-emit-more-carbon-than-burning-coal-11543>



## Rethink burn targets - Comrie

**A target to burn 5% of Victoria's public land every year must be reconsidered, says former Victorian Police Commissioner Neil Comrie (who has the job of monitoring the response to the Bushfire Royal Commission recommendations).**

Neil Comrie is now suggesting what we have been for years – that DSE should instead focus on protecting high-risk fire areas immediately around towns rather than simply meeting a target.

Scientific experts have said the burn plans based on an illogical figure of 5%, favours large

uninhabited areas to be burnt to meet the target. They pose minimal risk of accidents to human assets. This is having major destructive impact on many struggling ecosystems like the Mallee, central and western Victorian woodlands, coastal areas and forests – and of course the struggling wildlife like Mallee Fowl and other rare species. Meeting these milestones does little to protect lives and homes and in fact can make the forests and woodlands more dry, flammable and vulnerable. They also give a false sense of security.

Gippsland's National Party Minister Peter Ryan said he can see the logic of this and would consider Neil Comrie's advice. Nothing has happened.

*The Age 31.7.12/Jill*



## saved - for now

**EEG has so far halted plans to burn the 1,240 ha wilderness area in the Errinundra National Park.**

It was to be an 'ecological burn' but:

- there is no evidence or detail as to what the forests' fire needs are.
- up to half of the entire area is planned to be burnt but only about

5-10% is mapped as dry ridgeline forest.

- 90% is wet or damp forest.
- the area is old growth with rainforest gullies.
- there have been no fauna surveys conducted in this area.
- Vital hollow-bearing trees will be lost as a result of the burn (always a major loss in planned burns).
- It adjoins Brown Mountain which supports federally listed threatened

species such as the Long-footed Potoroo. Other rare species are likely to survive there as well.

This burn is simply to meet the 5% target. [Under the Commonwealth government's Bushfire management and national environment law](#) fact sheet it makes it clear that areas like this should not be burnt without good reason.

We believe the Federal Government has requested DSE to give reason for this burn. We believe it hasn't been able to.

*Jill*



### No profits for us, but logging towns get half a million

VicForests tells us it can't afford to pay a dividend to the public (govt) who own the forests that they destroy, but they CAN afford to dish out half a million to their selected logging towns to keep sweet with them.

From their website:

*"This year almost 40 groups and services across eastern Victoria were awarded grants or the opportunity for ongoing support through VicForests' Community Support Program".*

The reason they were set up was to return a profit to the state from logging operations. They never have.

[www.eastgippsland.net.au/?q=node/849](http://www.eastgippsland.net.au/?q=node/849)

### Recent logging handouts

Here's how our taxes are still dished out to assist logging:

- ♦ [\\$650,000 to the new owners of the Heyfield mill - from Baillieu.](#)
- ♦ [\\$8.2 million for the Bombala pine mill - from Gillard.](#)
- ♦ [\\$9.5 million to Nippon's paper recycling plant at Maryvale - from Gillard.](#)
- ♦ [\\$30,000 biomass study for EG mill - from Baillieu.](#)
- ♦ [\\$250,000 to smooth a bend in a South Gippsland logging road.](#)
- ♦ [\\$7 million to knock down hundreds of 'dangerous' habitat trees where burns are planned.](#)

## DSE/DPI 'ineffective' Auditor General



Effectiveness of Compliance Activities:  
Departments of Primary Industries and  
Sustainability and Environment

**The compliance responsibilities of DSE and the Dept Primary Industries (now responsible for logging and VicForests) was investigated by the Victorian Auditor General's Office (VAGO) in 2012. The report was scathing.**

These departments shamelessly break State and Federal laws themselves, so how can they be expected to monitor and enforce the laws they oversee, with others (unless you're a forest protestor or duck rescuer of course).

These two departments (now amalgamated into DEPI) had the task of overseeing, monitoring and enforcing the laws and regulations that protect public lands, primary industries and the environment.

The Auditor General also did a compliance review back in 2009 and came up with similar findings. DSE and DPI said they would pull up their socks. But what have they done since? They've sacked 600 staff. Now they are whittling away laws and rules to suit exploiters, which also suits their new minimal employee base.

The Napthine government is all out to weaken planning regs, land clearing laws, threatened species protection and so on. It's like having child protection laws but no police or welfare workers.

Compare this with VicForests, which was investigated and charged with eight counts of criminally logging protected rainforest in 2010, DSE agreed to give them a 12 months 'try-a-bit-harder' bond.

The DSE is obliged to conduct surveys for threatened species before they torch their habitat in planned burns – but they never do. Hence the Southern Brown Bandicoot, and Mallee Fowl and other rare wildlife have been threatened by the very department that is empowered to protect them. Cattlemen, VicForests, duck shooters and developers commonly break the law but are rarely if ever prosecuted, or even tut-tutted.

Wildlife culling permits are handed out like Santa lollies. The overworked wildlife officers just don't have the resources to assess what's happening - before or after permits are issued. A permit for 5 kangaroos could end up seeing 50-100 kangaroos shot. Complaints meet the bureaucratic brick wall.

Unfortunately the Auditor General can only recommend. We suspect this report will end up being ignored like the last.

The report can be downloaded [http://www.audit.vic.gov.au/reports\\_and\\_publications/latest\\_reports/2012-13/20121024-Compliance-DPI-DSE.aspx](http://www.audit.vic.gov.au/reports_and_publications/latest_reports/2012-13/20121024-Compliance-DPI-DSE.aspx)

### VicForests logging is now 100% natural



"VicForests' native forest harvesting and regenerating is conducted 100 per cent naturally, without the use of pesticides, fertilisers or other chemicals and in line with a comprehensive

Logging is now 100% natural with no nasty chemicals, fertilisers, artificial flavourings or colourings. Just a few 'natural' additives, like bulldozers, chainsaws and napalm. Their spin-

doctoring is always entertaining. [http://www.vicforests.com.au/assets/regeneration%20campaign%202013\\_final\\_web.pdf](http://www.vicforests.com.au/assets/regeneration%20campaign%202013_final_web.pdf) though they could have taken this down now.

VicForests media release - 5/3/13



# Too little



# ...too late

In an effort to look reasonable and after decades of overcutting forests, VicForests proudly announced its intention to reduce their pillaging (only of the central Highland's Ash forests) by 25% in four years time. The political definition of four years is never.

VicForests carried out a relentless and frenzied attack on the bushfire burn victims of the last decade, and salvage logged at many times the 'sustainable' level. Only now VicForests concedes it has been over-cutting. But the government logging agency won't reduce the cut until 2017. The industry doesn't like too much sudden change they say. So VicForests has given Naphthine's blessing to keep clearfelling in the only habitat left for Victoria's endangered faunal emblem, the Leadbeaters Possum.

As few as 1,000 animals are thought to survive, but about 2,000 hectares of its potential habitat will continue to be clearfelled and burnt every year until then.

this is a world first  
for a developed  
country - to be  
deliberately sending  
a species to  
extinction!

All government enquiries and reviews since the 80s have shown the logging industry cutting at obscenely voracious rates. It still is.

Professor David Lindenmayer has studied the ash forests for decades

and says the Leadbeaters Possum is close to extinction and waiting for 2017 for a small 25% reduction in cut could be too late. He said that this is a world first for a developed country - to be deliberately sending a species to extinction!

Too little to matter!

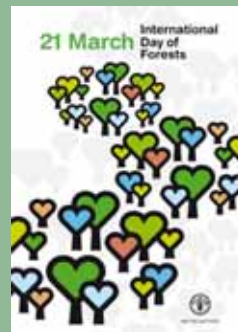


## International Day of Forests hijacked

March 21st was Equinox. It was also the UN's official International Day of Forests. But in true form, VicForests tried to hijack this day as the day to celebrate forestRY and LOGGING. Its media release claims it is "World Forestry Day" – a deliberate misrepresentation. They have even re-quoted the UN's media release to make it sound like theirs and how proud they

are that billions of people rely on FORESTRY and forests.

This is the official site. <http://www.fao.org/forestry/international-day-of-forests/en/> and it highlights the need to preserve and replant forests.



## Forests of Western Vic to be logged

In December 2012, the state government announced it would reopen the Mount Cole and Pyrenees Ranges state forests to commercial logging under a 'trial' which could then be extended to full-scale logging.

<http://www.eastgippsland.net.au/?q=node/838>

## Free to make Oxygen - for now

Earlier this year the Climate Change Authority recommended changing the law to define burning forests for electricity as 'renewable energy'. This would then come with the associated financial help given to renewables, and making the idea more viable. But on 21<sup>st</sup> March, the Gillard Government gave a clear **no** to this recommendation.

Minister Combet said that in 2011 his government prevented the burning of wood 'waste' for

electricity. He said that it wasn't eligible for renewable energy schemes so couldn't claim financial assistance. He said nothing had changed (the link to this news story has been taken off the government's website).

Huge thanks to The Greens again who influenced this decision. This has stymied the industry's plans to have burning forests take the place of woodchipping forests.

But should Tony Abbott get in, this could be reversed immediately.

Jill



Under an Abbott government, native forests could be burnt to supplement the coal-based electricity industry. Burning wood creates more pollution per unit of energy than coal does. Forests are also much more hardworking as climate moderators than as more air pollution and power for air conditioners.

# Shorts



## Bastion Point boat ramp gets the govt nod

The five year long battle to stop a huge monstrosity planned for Mallacoota's favourite beach, Bastion Point, was given the go-ahead by the Ballieu government in January. After three weeks of panel hearings in 2007, after 87% of submissions opposed the plan, after the then Planning Minister Justin Madden opposed the project, the Coalition government's environment minister, Ryan Smith gave it his blessing. But the locals say they haven't given up on the fight.

## Doubts over paper giant's rainforest pledge

You might have read that the world's biggest and most notorious pulp and paper company, Asia Pulp & Paper (APP), recently stated it will no longer log virgin rainforest. Conservationists are rightly suspicious though. APP has entrusted the monitoring of their environmental pledge to a group called the Forest Trust, which appears to be a consultant contracted by APP, and thus not an independent third party. APP has made similar pledges to halt primary forest clearing in the past - in 2004, then 2007, and again in 2009. Why will this time be any different?

<http://www.eastgippsland.net.au/?q=node/840>

## Flying Foxes hounded from their habitat

The Grey-headed Flying-fox is listed as vulnerable and East Gippsland is honoured to host a colony along the Mitchell River at Bairnsdale. Local bat phobia has spurred the Council to try and move them on. They plan to cut the tall poplars down where they have chosen to roost in the heat of summer. Clearing will be 'staged' but we're not sure over how long. As the Flying Foxes are Federally listed the shire council has to first apply to the Federal Government for approval. <http://www.eastgippsland.net.au/?q=node/835>

## VCAT fees hike

The Government is proposing to increase VCAT fees (a lesser court where you can challenge a government decision). This hefty 300% increase will see a basic planning application fee cost over \$1000 putting it out of reach of most ordinary people. Plus there'll be new hearing and mediation fees. All in the name of 'cost recovery', i.e. user pays. It's a pity they didn't apply that to the logging industry rather than ordinary citizens seeking justice!

VCAT is known for being very politicized in its decisions.

The Environment Defenders Office Briefing Paper on the issue is at [www.edovic.org.au/news/vcat-fees-rise-ordinary-citizens-be-priced-out](http://www.edovic.org.au/news/vcat-fees-rise-ordinary-citizens-be-priced-out)

## Rinehart comes to Gippsland!

One of Gina Rinehart's companies has invested more than \$4 million in the gas exploration firm Lakes Oil. It is a subsidiary of Rinehart's WA iron ore giant Hancock Prospecting. Part of this latest move is the appointment of climate change skeptic, Professor Ian Plimer, as a director of Lakes Oil. To top it off—Mr Alexander Downer will be Gina's lobbyist. It might in fact do our cause good.

## Rinehart tap for Downer

MINING magnate Gina Rinehart has chosen former Foreign Minister Alexander Downer as her second representative on the board of oil and gas explorer Lakes Oil.

The deal, says Timor-Timor, a subsidiary of Hancock Prospecting, purchases 14.25 million worth of Lakes Oil convertible notes.

If fully converted into shares, Mrs Rinehart would control 18.6 per cent of shares in Lakes Oil, which is seeking to develop unconventional forms of oil and gas in Victoria.

Lakes Oil said on Friday Mr Downer had also been nominated by Hancock Prospecting to join the board as a non-executive director.

Mr Downer was Australia's longest-serving foreign minister, from 1996 to 2007. He also served as opposition leader between 1994 and 1995.

Earlier this week, Lakes Oil agreed to appoint Mrs Rinehart's nominee to its board - climate change sceptic and mining geologist Professor Ian Plimer.

Lakes Oil is focusing on the Ormby basin and the Gippsland basin - which is close to the traditional Bass Strait offshore as well as the Latrobe Valley power stations - and Hancock's John Kruger said the Rinehart camp had been impressed with the location of the investments.

ANP

and don't  
get in  
my way ...

## Drop that recycled paper campaign or you're dead!

The logging mafia has been hard at work again—not bulldozing mountainsides but bulldozing their way around Parliament House. Ted Baillieu's government ordered Zoos Victoria (Melbourne, Healesville and Werribee) to cease its recycled paper campaign or lose their funding. They still have a very good conservation program highlighting the palm oil problem, African wildlife, seal protection and so on.

<http://www.zoo.org.au/fighting-extinction/conservation-campaigns>





## Victoria - first to allow prospecting in Parks



Plans by the Napthine Government to open up key Victorian national parks for fossicking and prospecting were given to independent statutory body, the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council (VEAC) earlier this year. In early June they handed down their report.

Unfortunately the government brief to VEAC was to choose WHICH areas within nine of Victoria's Parks could be opened up to prospectors, not IF it would be detrimental.



VEAC's report suggests that 22,000 hectares be approved for use by prospectors in parts of the Alpine and Lake Eildon National Parks, and Lerderderg State Park. But further scrutiny by relevant water authorities was needed. However, it said that prospecting has no place in Errinundra, Mitchell River, Croajingolong, Lind, Yarra Ranges and Baw Baw National Parks.

The report said there is an ecological risk to waterways and the natural values of parks. It also bravely recommended that prospecting regulations be improved and tightened.

Prospectors were promised by Baillieu that they would have increased access to our parks, despite them already having access to half of all public lands. After the recommendations, the lobby group was still complaining that the areas offered were too tiny.

The final report can be downloaded from the [VEAC website](http://www.veac.vic.gov.au).

VNPA/Jill 7/6/13

## Greens give Napthine a spray



This government is about to find out how fast you can lose votes when you proudly display your anti-environment colours. It has cut back solar support, made it nearly impossible to propose a new wind farm and set up tenders to sell as much coal as it possibly can. After banning protestors and the media from duck shooting opening day, an illegal massacre of endangered species ensued. On threatened species, the newly updated list shows more than 50 species moving up the list to a more endangered status. The government wants to bulldoze more trees when it should be planting them, and later today it will bring a bill into the Parliament to entrench woodchipping of native forests when nearly everyone in Victoria wants it to end.

Despite two Auditor-General reports saying the Department of Primary Industries failed to enforce environmental protections, the government has put the former Department of Primary Industries in charge of the environment.

Despite two Auditor-General reports saying the Department of Primary Industries failed to enforce environmental protections, the government has put the (DEPI) in charge of the environment.

Transport now means massive new freeways and rail projects deferred indefinitely. The Minister for Environment and Climate Change is invisible but unleashes abuse when challenged. Then there is the group of radical climate change denialists within the government led by Mr Finn, and no member of the coalition has the guts to challenge him, contradict him or tell him to shut up.

An environmental protection plan is a must have for nearly every voter in this state. Leaving aside those vested interests making money out of destruction, almost no-one wants to vote for an anti-environment party.

Since the Leader of the Opposition does not have a Green bone in his body, that leaves only one person capable of articulating a policy -- that is, the new Premier. I look forward to debating him on the question of the environment, the biggest question of this century.



*Greens MP,  
Greg Barber in state  
parliament 18/4/13*

## Spot-tailed Quoll - 11 year wait for rescue

EEG has been able to clear the political and bureaucratic blockage that had kept the Federal protection plan for the endangered Spot-tailed Quoll in limbo for years. Was this deliberate or was it incompetence mixed with a dysfunctional system?

A couple of letters started things moving again (so we were told). The Spot-tailed Quoll was reclassified as 'Endangered' under the EPBC Act in 2002. A draft national recovery plan was written up soon after. These recovery plans are the 'how-to' instructions for its rescue and protection across Australia. Victoria's lengthy delay in

commenting on the draft plan has kept the species in decline. The quoll's survival is almost fully dependent on the national recovery plan being implemented as soon as possible. However the reply from the Environment Department in Canberra said that there would be no guarantee of funding to save it even when the plan is completed; there are many competing environmental emergencies!

**HELP!**



Jill

# Science and reports

## 'Logging is not sustainable' – Professor

Professor David Lindenmayer from the ANU recently wrote:

*"the old growth Mountain Ash forest estate has been reduced to an estimated 1/60th of what it once was" and "by any scientific yardstick, forestry operations in Victoria cannot be regarded as ecologically sustainable."*

His article that appeared in the online journal *The Conversation*, 17.1.2013 also condemns clearfell logging as it:

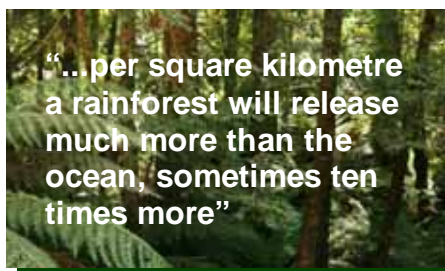
*"alters fire regimes in these forests. Fire severity is significantly higher in stands that have been logged and regenerated in the past 10-40 years... Clearfelling is an excellent system for re-growing uniform aged stands of young trees. But large old trees are virtually eliminated on clearfelled sites and many key species of plants are significantly reduced. Old growth understorey plants such as Soft Tree Ferns and Rough Tree Ferns are reduced by around 90% or more on logged sites. These plants play many key ecological roles in Mountain Ash forests."*



**"...ferns are reduced by roughly 90% on a logged coupe"**

He also proves that the industry is overcutting forests faster than they can regrow. To meet the urgent need for reform, he recommends a 50-75% reduction in cutting rates. Lindenmayer suggests the current industry be wound up and workers shifted to other jobs.

<http://theconversation.edu.au/victorian-forestry-is-definitely-not-ecologically-sustainable>



**"...per square kilometre a rainforest will release much more than the ocean, sometimes ten times more"**

## Forests' lead role in our climate

This is fascinating new research. The idea that forests bring the rain, and cutting them down can affect local weather patterns, is not new. But Russian physicists Makarieva and Gorshkov argue forests also create winds that sweep rain inland, allowing forests to grow far from the coast.

The theory runs that Australia is so dry in large part because we don't have forests, not the other way around. The last two hundred years has obviously been a big contributor to this, but Aboriginal fire practices appear to have also been significant.

Everyone agrees that the pressure changes caused by condensation and evaporation can cause winds, but the standard models have this as an effect small enough to be ignored. Some models factor it in, but as a marginal effect. This research suggests it is actually the *largest wind generator*, at least those travelling from the coast to the centre of continents – the ones that carry rain.

You might think that most of the evaporation occurs over the Earth's oceans, but this is not really true. Forests have many times as much leaf area as the ground they cover, and these leaves all perspire water. Rainforest trees perspire a lot. So per square kilometre a rainforest will release much more than the ocean, sometimes ten times more.

<http://forensicsfossilsfruitbats.wordpress.com/2013/02/21/the-word-for-world-really-might-be-forest/>

## Climate sums

To keep the climate from heating above the 2°C threshold, Bill McKibben (of 350.org) tells us that we can only afford to emit around another 565 gigatonnes of CO2 worldwide. <http://maths.350.org/frequently-asked-questions/>

But Australia's planned fossil fuel mining, burning and exporting will account for 1/3rd of that 565 gigatonnes. Yet we are only 1% of the world's population, and only one of about 200 countries.

The full article and references are [here on The Conversation](#).

## The ecological role of forest logs

Ground logs are incredibly important in a forests' ecosystem. They add to the complex habitat for flora and fauna. They are used for nesting and shelter, are fantastic places for invertebrates and therefore feeding stations for reptiles and ground birds, are cosy hibernation hide-outs, are used as above ground 'highways' across thick understorey, provide moss havens, fungi haunts and sites for plant germination to mention a few of the many roles of logs.

Now there is a push to clearfell and Hoover up as much ground 'waste' as possible for burning in electricity generators. As well as the other major impacts on forest ecosystems, this could be a new threat to the log dependent fauna in our forests.

[This paper](#) examines logs as part of the essential structure of a forest.





# Global Decline of Big Old Trees

Once they would have been everywhere. Big old trees are now extremely rare. This recent study shows that the world's biggest giants are now more vulnerable than ever, on more fronts than ever. This is impacting on all forest ecosystems that have lost their grand old trees.

They are necessary for a variety of wildlife and processes that have evolved with large old trees. Naturally these trees can live for hundreds or even over a thousand years in some species. But they are now a tiny part of forested lands (if they exist at all).

One study found that although big trees (with a diameter of more than 1 metre at chest height) made up only 1% of trees in a study plot in California's Yosemite National Park, they accounted for 50% of the area's biomass.



"trees (with a diameter of more than 1 metre at chest height) made up only 1% of trees in a study plot ... (but) they accounted for 50% of the area's biomass"

David Lindenmayer, a researcher at Australian National University found that huge mountain ash trees in southern Australia and Tasmania provide homes for more than 40 species of wildlife.

Large old trees are declining rapidly in all kinds of ecosystems worldwide — forests, rainforests, boreal forests, woodlands, agricultural areas, cities and savannahs.

Different regions around the world have different tree problems; elephants plus fire plus fungi in South Africa, or fire plus logging plus climate change in the wet forests of Victoria. From logging to clearing for development or agriculture, to invasive insects or pathogens, trees are constantly being faced with threats. Rapid loss of existing large old trees with no recruitment of more large trees leads to a massive ecological vacuum.

Many land managers have little idea about the importance of large old trees, and some care even less. <http://www.ouramazingplanet.com/3856-big-trees-in-decline.html>  
<http://www.enn.com/wildlife/article/45327>

Read the original report "Global Decline in Large Old Trees" by David B. Lindenmayer, William F. Laurance & Jerry F. Franklin  
[http://www.eastgippsland.net.au/downloads/2012\\_Global\\_decline\\_in\\_large\\_old\\_trees-Science.pdf](http://www.eastgippsland.net.au/downloads/2012_Global_decline_in_large_old_trees-Science.pdf)

## Other stories we couldn't cram in

- So called 'Green tape' – less than 0.1% of developers investments [http://www.eastgippsland.net.au/downloads/COAG\\_and\\_green\\_tape\\_Economistsatlargereport\\_re\\_BCA\\_claims.pdf](http://www.eastgippsland.net.au/downloads/COAG_and_green_tape_Economistsatlargereport_re_BCA_claims.pdf)
- Westpac finances Solomon Island logging (no response from the Bank so we assume nothing has changed) <http://devpolicy.org/note-is-westpac-funding-illegal-logging-in-solomon-islands/>
- Planet Ark sinks deeper - and deeper <http://www.eastgippsland.net.au/?q=node/808>
- Birds of a feather ... shoot (and cover-up) together <http://www.duck.org.au/media-releases/2013-media-releases>
- Fanning the hysteria flames of the Abberfeldy fire <http://www.eastgippsland.net.au/?q=node/827>
- FED budget – environment gets crumb <http://greens.org.au/content/weaker-dumber-meaner-australia-2013-budget-greens>
- Will a new Napthine broom sweep clean? <http://www.eastgippsland.net.au/?q=node/834>
- Prospecting in our National Parks -VEAC recommends limitations <http://vnpa.org.au/page/publications/media-releases/prospecting-has-no-place-in-national-parks>
- Flying foxes roost in Bairnsdale - council plans to move them on. <http://www.eastgippsland.net.au/?q=node/835>
- Baillieu's investments linked to \$7million mine mess near Benambra <http://www.eastgippsland.net.au/?q=node/690>
- Napthine to weaken land clearing laws <http://vnpa.org.au/page/nature-conservation/take-action/watering-down-protection-for-native-vegetation>
- Deadly mercury levels in the Gippsland Lakes <http://www.eastgippsland.net.au/?q=node/782> & <http://geg.org.au/?p=520>
- Wood waste energy plan thwarted in Gippsland <http://www.eastgippsland.net.au/?q=node/790>
- Councils pay \$2500 to logging lobbyists [http://www.nict.org.au/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=53&Itemid=71](http://www.nict.org.au/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=53&Itemid=71)
- Logging gets free water, but irrigators pay <http://www.eastgippsland.net.au/?q=node/780>
- Nano fibres & lignin from tree cellulose –Nippon builds new factory. <http://eastgippsland.net.au/?q=node/843>
- Indonesia extends logging ban but questions remain [click here](#)
- Asian pulp company breaks promise not to log rainforests. Click [here](#)
- Newman Govt - opens up Qld to logging! <http://www.eastgippsland.net.au/?q=node/830>
- Baillieu covered up bull on cows - 'flimsy science' exposed. <http://www.eastgippsland.net.au/?q=node/691>

### Federal budget – climate and environment lose

"Labor has made deep cuts of \$685 million to renewable energy and energy efficiency, reneging on its commitment to the Greens in the Clean Energy agreement.  
"This comes on top of \$257 million in cuts to the

Biodiversity Fund, further evidence that Labor cannot be trusted on the environment and climate change. Adding insult to injury, \$32 million of this is being re-directed to the Tasmanian Forestry Agreement.

[Greens media release on Federal budget 15/5/13](#)

**THE GREENS**

# banking bonuses or biodiversity?

**World governments need to spend \$US80 billion a year to halt extinctions of endangered animals and plants, 10 times current levels and only half the amount paid to bankers in bonuses, a study showed.**

The UN's 2020 goals (agreed by governments in 2010) to preserve everything from insects to whales would cost \$80 billion. This is:

- ◆ 10 times more than current investments in conservation.
- ◆ half of the estimated bonuses paid to top banking officials in 2011
- ◆ a fraction of world defence spending of \$US 1.7 trillion.
- ◆ less than 20% of annual global consumer spending on soft drinks.

The U.N. goals for 2020 include expanding protected areas to 17% of the world's land surface - from 12.7% in 2010 - and to 10% of seas under national control, from 4.0% now. The pressures of a human population above 7 billion is acknowledged and quantified, but as with climate change, no government wants to act.

*The Age 12.10.12/Jill*

<http://www.theage.com.au/environment/conservation/conservation-efforts-need-to-rise-10fold-to-succeed-report-finds-20121012-27gjj.html>



## Please never buy these envelopes

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[http://www.eastgippsland.net.au/?q=how\\_you\\_can\\_help/paper](http://www.eastgippsland.net.au/?q=how_you_can_help/paper) & [www.ethicalpaper.com.au](http://www.ethicalpaper.com.au)



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PP 341163/3