

Private Native Forestry – resolution in Minutes of Tweed Shire Council meeting 26 October 2017

RESOLVED that Council:

1. Notes that Tweed Shire has the highest biodiversity of remnants in Australia of the Ancient Gondwana Rainforests which are of international significance and much which are contained within private lands.
2. Notes the appalling situation of State Government reliance on existing records only to determine conditions for Private Native Forestry licences, and the complete lack of any on ground ecological studies required to determine whether critical flora and fauna or cultural heritage would be at jeopardy.
3. Note that Tweed's forests have not been mapped in detail in many places, such at the Hewittville property at Limpinwood currently being investigated for unauthorised works for the third time.
4. Calls on the State Government and makes representations for an urgent moratorium on any further issuing of Private Native Forestry licences for native forests (i.e. not native plantation forests) in the Tweed Shire, until a review of the existing legislation is completed.
5. Holds a workshop on the suitability and safety of the external road network for the Hewittville logging vehicles.
6. Undertakes an urgent review of the ecological values of the Hewittville property at Limpinwood to ascertain if this site warrants a rezoning to better reflect and protect the environmental values of the site and brings back a report to Council to consider this matter.

The Motion was **Carried**

FOR VOTE – Cr R Byrnes, Cr C Cherry, Cr R Cooper, Cr K Milne

AGAINST VOTE – Cr J Owen, Cr W Polglase, Cr P Allsop