

Why Native Forest Logging Must End



A brief glimpse of industrialised logging in Australia now

Australia's Native Forests

Can store more carbon per hectare and for a longer period of time than equatorial rainforests famous for this function.



Due to policy failure resulting from the perpetuation of industry rhetoric that native forest logging is done sustainably, Australia is now:

- one of 11 hotspots of global deforestation
- a significant contributor to emissions from *forest degradation*, which in the last decade, has doubled globally. This statistic does not even include emissions from *deforestation* arising from the clearing of native vegetation.
- the world leader in mammal extinction
- a major leader in other extinctions
- at the epicentre of what is now the first human induced global extinction event occurring at an exponentially accelerating rate

Native forests are logged under RFAs - Regional Forest Agreements.

Myth propounded by the federal and state governments is that RFAs guarantee sustainable native forestry. The reality is routine destruction



Industry lobbyist, Forest and Wood Products Australia – FWPA – claims Australian native forestry is ‘World’s Best Practice Sustainable Logging’

This claim is repeated across various PR media by state forestry agencies and FWPA. Although now functioning as quasi privatised corporations, state forestry agencies are funded by taxpayers. As industry partners with FWPA, they use taxpayer money for community education to promote FWPA’s 5 year Corporate Plan which aims to:

- *claw back the industry’s eroding social licence to keep logging native forests*
- *secure access to the last of the public forest resource for their private profit*

RFAs provide legal exemption to state forestry agencies from federal environment law. In 2017, the first of these disastrous 20 year ‘agreements’ expired in Tasmania and shamefully was renewed. Other states are facing imminent RFA renewals. Scientists and ecologists want RFAs abolished. But the logging industry has pressured government to promise to roll them over for at least another 20 years. To ensure industry gets its way FWPA’s relentless marketing machine is on full throttle. Their rhetoric of *a new era in logging* conceals major deals with political parties. Both Labor and the Coalition have already promised to renew RFAs but the Coalition has also promised to automatically ‘roll them over’ as the industry now demands - so that as soon as RFAs expire in the next 2 decades they will be automatically up for renewals in 5 year intervals thereafter.

The public is being set up to accept ongoing extensions of logging contracts that sign away Australia’s public native forests

Renewing RFAs under this government would give international and some Australian corporation’s ongoing access to clear fell and burn our forests. Habitat critical to our most endangered wildlife will disappear - along with species literally clinging to life within it.



Victorian Faunal Emblem

the Fairy or Leadbeaters Possum

About 1,000 left in an area about 80 X 70 km will be logged if Victorian RFA renewed, the timber and woodchips sold as ‘sustainably produced’.



Western Australian Faunal Emblem the Numbat

only 1,000 left in the wild but their forest can be clear-felled
'World Best Practice Sustainable Logging'

Greenwashing: A common process by which companies trick the public into believing products or practices are sustainable is through a sustainability certification scheme. A green organisation is targeted, often one in financial trouble. The company/industry claims it wants to be environmentally responsible and asks the green group for help to promote a sustainability brand. As people lack the means to verify the sustainability claims, they need to rely on a green group's endorsement. The naïve or cash strapped green group provides its logo and co-operation in a public relations campaign to promote the 'certified' brand. Greenwashing is concealing resource exploitation by national governments and corporations that operate worldwide.



PLANET ARK

Partner to Forest Wood Products Australia's campaign to promote wood use as a climate change solution, Planet Ark endorses logging Australian native forests although if left standing, some can store more carbon per hectare than equatorial rainforests, and are critical for the survival of wildlife on the edge of extinction.

Planet Ark endorses industry and governments' claim that RFA logging is sustainable.

Planet Ark says 'wood should be sustainably sourced...by which we mean certified'. Though certification schemes vary and The Australian Forestry Standard certifies the status quo,

Planet Ark believes:

'choice of forest certification scheme is a decision for forest owners/managers'

Why the native forest logging myth?



No longer do bullock teams romantically weave between tall trees carefully retained till fully mature, for felling by a brave forester's axe, or a chainsaw, every bit being used.

Local economies no longer rely on small timber mills to provide regions with the hardwood once necessary for people's sheds, houses, bridges and railways.

Somehow along the way state forest agencies have been 'corporatised'. Our forests are no

longer managed for the public but for powerful corporate clients, guaranteed wood supplies for chipping, pulp and paper, largely exported. State forest agencies contract the machinery that crushes forest understories as forest stands are stripped to make the operation economic for machinery/transport consortiums and corporate clients.



Australia continues its brutal historic clearing but no longer for immediate survival, and now with machines designed to take more, faster.

Australian native forests are now part of a global supply chain of wood chip and forest biomass for processing into thumb sized wood pellets for combustion with coal in power stations.

With the advent of the international wood biomass trade, Earth's original forests are being swiftly and surely obliterated.

In Australia senior state forest executives work closely with logging industry's lobby groups. Some move in and out of management roles with state forest agencies and on and off industry boards. Backed by large corporations, this coterie of industry professionals organises the 'promises' and policy platforms from government regarding access to and sale of Australia's forests.



Thus timber supply agreements with multinationals that include massive government (read *taxpayer*) compensation to logging companies should there be shortfall of *supply*. Add to these unethical operations the fact that native forests are – as a matter of routine - logged at a loss of tens of millions a year to taxpayers.



The impact of native forest logging on

- landscape amenity (beauty)
- wildlife and crucial habitat
- water resources
- soil stability
- climate moderation
- and the world's greatest land based carbon sinks

cannot be overstated.

Scientists, citizens and conservation groups are working desperately to reveal the impact of industrial logging and the loss of our forests. They resign from government work and advisory roles as they are politically gagged. Many finance film, forest tours and camps, public presentations and social media to get the facts to the public. People donate to hire planes or drones to show the logging hidden behind the highways.

Mid North Coast:
Intense logging of native forest and deliberate removal of 'un-wanted' species alongside clear fell of plantations to make it hard to distinguish which is which when it regrows. One valley 40 truckloads a day to 'engineer' forests for BORAL





New South Wales



Where *Forests Corporation* NSW mercilessly ‘hammers’ the habitat of the national icon so that not just Koalas but many more wildlife creatures, once common, enter the extinction conveyor belt of the industry’s *production forests*



2018 *Forests Corporation* and Environment Protection Agency relax the rules

- ✓ to keep timber supply up to multinational
- ✓ plans to re-zone 100,000 hectares *intensive area* to legalise total clear of native forests including koala habitat – *state sanctioned slaughter*

New South Wales

Intensive logging of coast and hinterland in less than 10 year rotations, deliberate removal of species not wanted by industry. So gone are the food trees of Koalas, Glossy Black Cockatoos and much else. As Forests Corporation NSW sterilises native forests that once included wildlife it re-brands them 'Production Forests'.



It's 80 years before hollows begin to develop in trees to become the only shelter/ protection for forest dependent marsupials, owls and some insect groups. Tree hollows are critical for reproduction, to bear and nurture young. Industrial logging cycles now less than 10 years is creating a uniformly immature forest landscape almost devoid of the hollows on which our creatures depend. Across the continent this loss of hollows is leading to inevitable mass extinction

'Destroy non commercial' so thousands of Tallwood - Koalas preferred food tree are pushed over, roots exposed in the sun to die. Likewise Glossy Black Cockatoo prime food tree Allocasuarina torulosa is systematically obliterated by the tens of thousands

South Coast Wombats are buried alive in their burrows. Yellow Bellied Glider below, killed by logging, once common they are becoming rare.

Millions of creatures die in logging operations even before the starvation and exposure suffered when the vegetation is gone, with no hollows in which to shelter, no leaves, flowers, nectar or insects to eat. The insects too require the forest ecosystem in order to exist.



Across NSW clear felling, burning and crushing of forests as Forests Corporation removes unwanted species to promote Blackbutt dominance. To supply BORAL 100,000 hectares has now been re-zoned 'intensive' for total clear fell, in this sterilization process engineering the new *production forest*



Tasmania



Obliteration of Ancient Forests



and Their Inhabitants



Tasmanian Regional Forest Agreement renewed 2017 in accordance with Coalition clauses to facilitate *perpetual* renewals thereafter



Vast tracts of unique forests are logged in Tasmania including rich carbon stores, habitat for rare, threatened, endangered and critically endangered species. Forests are clearfelled and burnt. Forests like the rainforests in the Tarkine, critically endangered Swift Parrot habitat, and tall eucalyptus forests are being lost or are on the logging schedule. Reserves have been opened to logging and legislation was changed so areas previously scheduled for reservation will be available for logging.

Tas state govt admits logging is unsustainable and subsidised.

In 2017 \$0.5 million for propaganda and another 4 million to come. TFES subsidy of \$148 million to log exports estimated, despite \$67 million loss 2015-6.

As at 2012

- \$100 million federal subsidy for 6 years
- outright operating loss averaging \$100 million per annum for previous 4 years
- unfunded superannuation liability well over \$100 million

Rare species like giant freshwater crayfish and spotted tail quoll and endangered Masked Owl and Tasmanian Devil all at risk of annihilation in Tarkine scheduled for logging in February kept at bay only by citizens working with environment groups

Forest coupe in the Arve, near Tahune Airwalk, cable logged, clearfelled, then burned using a napalm like incendiary to encourage the growth of a Eucalypt monoculture. It was old growth 'mixed wet forest', Eucalyptus regnans and rainforest species, habitat of endangered devils, quolls, forest owls and a myriad of other wild lifeforms.



Victoria



Brown Mountain Old Growth 2009 logged then burnt



and across the state the machines move on

Victoria

Enchanting forests that store vast amounts of carbon are home to exquisite creatures. But an entire Mountain Ash ecosystem faces ecological collapse.



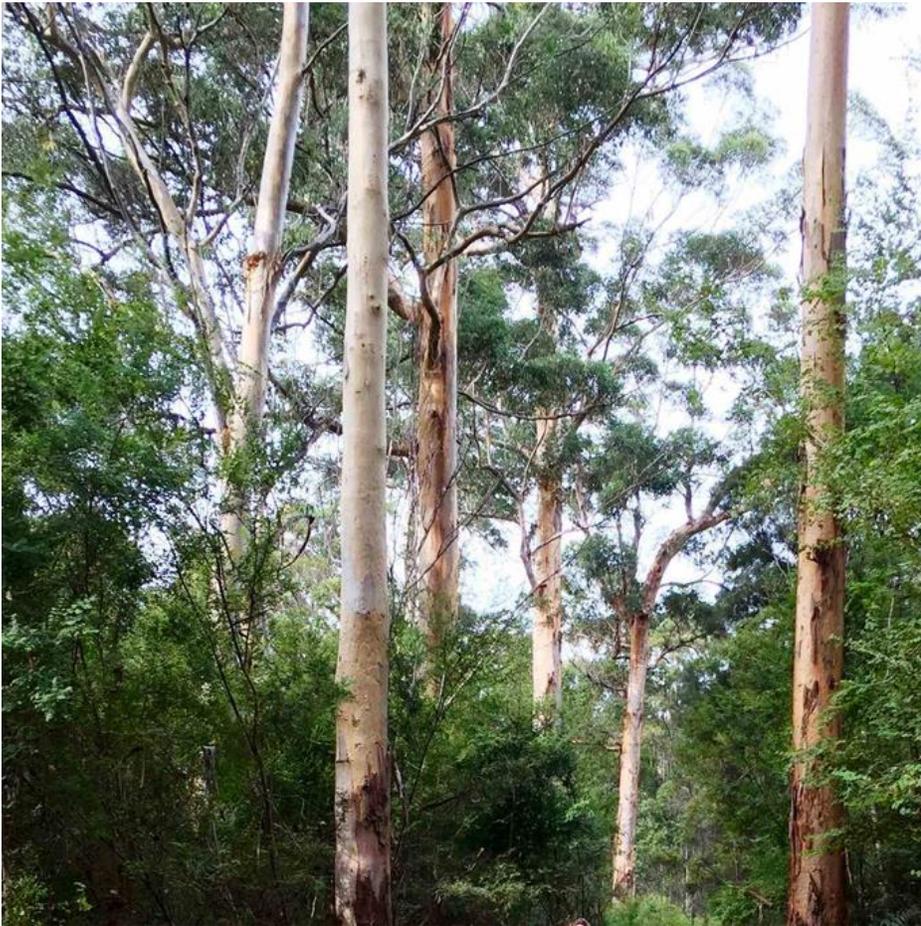
Giant old growth Mountain Ash forests from Mt Yalmy, capable of immense long term CO2 storage then right: Matlock Plateau a once-was Mt Ash forest that is critical for Greater Glider, Leadbeaters Possum, the forest owls and so many others. After decades of clear fell only 1% remains of original Mt Ash forest ecosystems, bringing them to the brink of ecological collapse.

East Gippsland Old Growth being converted to single stand species and called regeneration \$5 million for one native forest logging job, the full cost to taxpayers to subsidise the machinery, equipment and infrastructure such as roads.

\$5 million for one native forest logging job

Paying for once common wildlife species to join the swift path to extinction





Western Australia

**No matter how
endangered**

No matter how ancient

In WA it can be obliterated



Western Australia



WA Forest Products Commission (FPC) cost taxpayers \$34 million over the last 4 years. Native forest logging provides only 300 logging industry jobs. Quokkas and other forest wildlife draw tourists internationally but are killed or die as a result of logging and burning.



The FPC is exempt from federal laws to protect species and WA's *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* will not protect native plants and animals from the harmful impacts of logging. Marri trees, a keystone forest species and critical habitat for cockatoos, are dying across their range, killed by the marri canker.



70% of possums die within 2 weeks of habitat being logged. Here is the rare Western Ringtail, recently included on the critically endangered list yet it could be extinct within 20 years. Clear felling of karri continues with scant regard for the need to retain old hollowed habitat trees or protect steep slopes or stream reserves



Chuditch or Western Quoll are killed during logging or starve later or can't reproduce because they are left without dens, as hollow logs and stumps are removed or burnt. Jarrah forests are being stripped for low grade logs with pressure to increase the volume by up to three times the current amount.



Trees carbon dated to 600 years old clear felled, for paper

