

# Modernisation of the Regional Forest Agreements

Regional Forest Agreements do protect the bushland as I noted that Queensland has not signed the Agreement. This is obvious as seen by the destruction of forested areas in South East Queensland that is endangering the viability of koala populations and many more species.

## Modernising the Regional Forest Agreements

### Comments after reading the Fact Sheets

In an ideal world monetary value of forests should not shape their use or future. They have intrinsic value to humans as they are essential to our comfortable survival.(look at the desert dwelling people-harsh life- hand to hand existence unless you are lucky enough to have oil)!

The danger of reducing our reliance on plastics is that tree and timber use will necessarily have to increase as substitutes for packaging. It was okay to use paper and cardboard in the past as:

- Lower population using less packaging
- The way packaging was used was more “global” i.e. bulk buying biscuits in paper bags, slicing own bread so didn’t need wrapping in sealed plastic bag j(just a piece of tissue paper to handle the bread with)
- Didn’t use freezers as we shopped more regularly and didn’t have plastic to freeze goods in (however ice cream came in cardboard boxes).

Old large trees are essential to a stable ecosystem along with a diversity of plants in balance. They should never be logged.

Preserve old growth forests BUT maintain corridors of access between all forestry coups for the movement of flora(seeding) and fauna.

Staffing cuts to DELWP, Vicforest and monitoring departments to ensure that logging companies are following guidelines means that any infringement of the guidelines isn’t found out in time. You cannot put an old growth forest back together once it is logged.

The timeframe of reassessment of the agreements at five years or more is now far too long. Climate change brings rapid change and the audacity of some people who self regulate in business flouting the law by logging timber in unregulated areas and saving money in the now by not replanting enough stock in plantations for future harvesting, (not being picked up in time as there are ever decreasing staffing levels)

which leads to logging companies having to apply to log in previously protected state forests.

Using forests as a term already consigns the bushland to logging as “forestry” has a connotation of logging and commercial tree use NOT conservation.

Use of Glyphosate in forestry?

What is machine-related learning? (mentioned in at least two of the fact sheets)

Pipelines reduce habitat for birds, aquatic mammals and reptiles, fish and crustaceans.

Impact on Threatened species

- Will landscape surveys be done in a meaningful manner or just so that they can be said to be done.
- Will timeframes allow for accuracy
- Will there be adequate staffing levels for the landscape surveys to allow for all possible/probable information to be gathered.

When it is scientifically proven that old growth forests are so efficient in sequestering carbon why is there even a question mark over logging any of these areas. (Tasmania take note)

Are our forests REALLY sustainably managed?

Fact check- increase in people who say we should use more wood? Due to advertising by Planet Ark and Forestry companies?

Are forestry companies appropriately replacing the trees they harvest? They have had many years to ensure they have a sustainable supply of plantation timber by replanting.

State owned forests should NEVER be given to private companies for logging-they are a taxpayer and citizen resources - a hedge for the future.

Be careful accepting that companies are offsetting their carbon emissions by planting trees. It is easy to fudge this claim.

As carbon is stored in manufactured wood products is that being used as a justification for cutting trees down thereby reducing the sustainability of ecosystems.

Is it true that tree cover aids in rainfall amounts? Eg Amazon rainforest - has rainfall decreased there since large scale land clearing commenced. A warning to us.

## Education needed

- Primary school-teach the value of forests and timber in the same way being taught that plastics are harmful to the environment.
- 4WD clubs, campers and hikers respecting the bushland by driving in appropriate areas, camping and hiking mindfully with fire risk and leaving rubbish and excrement on site being foremost in their minds and having enough staff to monitor these groups to ensure compliance with regulations.

As climate change is a real threat then we need to protect more of our bushland so that stocks are higher in the event of changes reducing the ability of the bush to survive.

The decision making prototype for the Central Highlands as shown in Fact Sheet 15: Decision Support Systems doesn't include NO harvesting of trees as part of the parameters.

Water catchments should NEVER EVER be logged. This is as obvious as the nose on your face.

Tourism should be approached with the protection of the bush in mind. No clearing for resorts or lodges, day trips only in high value old forest, camping only allowed in already degraded bushland. No human intervention in old growth forest except for that recommended by traditional owners. (see Wilsons Prom and Tidal River- by the way established as a National Park in the 1920's. What did they know then that we still haven't learned?

Large scale land development for human housing should not be allowed in forested areas. No trees should be cut down. Only land already cleared should be made available for developers. Our population levels are reaching critical mass and we are in in danger of destroying the planet. Agricultural activities are severely curtailed by developments however we should never allow developers in to bushland. We need the trees.

No wetlands should be altered.

The information on the Fact sheets make it sound as though the forests will be well protected however often these don't translate to reality.

There needs to be a revisiting of the methods used in logging. There should be absolutely no clear felling. (there should also be changes to the laws that allow developers of housing stocks to have carte blanche on what tree stocks and wetlands they save in their development. Usually its NONE).

## Extra points

- Phascogales are tiny possum like animals that need specific types of tree hollows and food supply. So many species have evolved to be only supported by habitat and food as these are. By excessive logging in any area we are endangering the survival of many species.
- The RFA's seem to be very interested in species and habitat preservation. Can large scale logging of the magnitude we need to support our increasing human population allow for species preservation and actually coexist with logging.
- I am a community stakeholder in our state forests. As such I demand they are protected and not used as a resource with the emphasis on making money. There should be no ability to make money from old growth forests.
- State and national parks should be protected from all human interference-I know fire risk has to be managed- and should be considered as priceless.
- Human survival relies on biodiversity and state and national forests have been saved so far and should be into the future for the survival of future human generations.
- Deforestation should not be categorised as progress inevitable for human consumption. Deforestation is actually regressive and harmful to the future of the planet.

Tuesday 23rd July 2019

Addendum for this submission to the body overseeing

“The Modernization of the Regional Forest Agreements”.

Points for consideration:

At what point does tree cover reach a critical mass whereby the “respiration” of trees sequestering carbon and emitting oxygen become unbalanced enough so that adequate oxygen is not being put into the atmosphere for oxygen breathing living things.

Retain as much tree cover as possible to maintain biodiversity.

Though large old growth trees do put carbon into the atmosphere as they decompose when they die this is an important part of the cycle of life and encourages and maintains biodiversity.

Have a partial moratorium on logging until stocks of trees have recovered enough to allow for their removal from plantations.

Prepare the workers in the logging industry for a different working future by ensuring education available in other industries like conservation, tourism, renewable energy provision, agriculture (including forestry) for a truly sustainable forestry industry that doesn't need to use old growth and native forests.

Make sure as much as possible excess replanting of trees occurs so that a good stock of trees is replaced regularly and left to mature and never be logged as we have lost far too many trees in the past.