2001

Wombat Forest Society inc.

Wild & Wonderful Wood & Water Work & Wildlife

ASN: A0029445N

PO Box 428, Daylesford. 3460.

Ph/Fax: 0353 481748.

To: Peter Keppels
Commercial Forest Manager
NRE West Victoria.

From: Tim Anderson
Wombat Forest Society

Dear Peter,

This is a letter stating the intention of the Wombat Forest Society to take NRE to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal over the 'Proposed Wood Utilisation Plans' for the Midlands FMA for the 2001-2004 period.

It is the WFS's belief that the intensity of coupes in the Wombat Forest is extreme. The WFS further believes that NRE's interpretation of the Code of Forest Practice in relation to adjacency criteria and SW2 cuts is wrong. The evidence is that SW2 cuts leave a coupe in essentially and structurally the same as an equivalent age clearfall coupe. Your intensity of harvesting will impact in a way that more than acceptable from a catchment perspective.

The proposed WUPs have many coupes abutting each other that contravene the adjacency criterion.

It is clear that NRE have failed to manage the Midlands sustainably. The WUPs may reflect the area needed by NRE to supply timber volumes, but to need to cut around 13% of an area in 3years will compromise other values that NRE is obliged to look after.

The WFS has attempted to get NRE to face reality and reduce logging to a sustainable level. Regretfully NRE appears unwilling or unable to achieve this. The WFS is therefore forced to the position of using other State Authorities to intercede.

The WFS will also be appealing against Midway's assumed CSR License, that has some how grown to 80 000 tons. We believe that given the reductions in the announced Consultative Paper's, and further WFS analysis, that there are no grounds for the granting of this license. The WFS believes that the sustainable yield for the Midlands should be around 25 000m3/p.a.

For NRE to have targeted such an intensity of harvesting between Daylesford and Blackwood, straight after the RFAs, appears to be an act of arrogance. The WFS believes that this intensity of operations in this area will push the broader community into totally rejecting timber harvesting in the region and will herald the start of 'forest protests' in the Wombat. Enough is enough. The community has been tolerant until now, what is proposed will be the proverbial straw that breaks the camel's back.

The Wombat Forest Society has not done a formal response to the WUPs as the RFAs have taken our time. This does not mean that we will be silent on what you propose.

Yours truly,
Tim Anderson

Tim Anderson

Cc: Minster Garbutt
Geoff Scales