



DOC19/193250

Sue Doran
Friends of the Mongarlowe River
Email: secretaryfmr@gmail.com

Dear Sue Doran

RE: Urgent Stop Work required in cpt #517 Buckenbowra State Forest

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) recently received correspondence from you outlining your concerns regarding the quality of the ecological surveys undertaken by Forest Corp NSW (FCNSW) within compartment 517 prior to harvesting, the proximity of harvesting operations to threatened species and topsoil and runoff from operations. You have requested the EPA use its powers to issue a Stop Work Order (SWO) on this basis to prevent a contravention of the South Coast Threatened Species Licence (TSL).

The EPA has a range of escalating regulatory tools available to it and needs to use each of these in a measured and responsible manner. SWO's are considered to sit towards the more extreme of these response options and delegation to use it is restricted to only the most senior officers of the EPA, and for situations where a serious contravention and ensuing significant environmental impact is known or anticipated. In this instance the EPA does not share your view that the likelihood of an actual or imminent breach of the TSL has been clearly established, nor has any direct and tangible link between the alleged breaches and a resulting significant environmental impact been identified. Therefore, EPA's view is that the use of a Stop Work Order at this time is not an appropriate regulatory response.

However, the EPA does take the allegations you raise very seriously, and I can assure you that my staff have been assiduously pursuing the matter with FCNSW. This has resulted FCNSW recently undertaking several additional ecological surveys and the commencement of a formal investigation by EPA into a number of FCNSW planning and pre-operational activities within Buckenbowra State Forest Compartment 517.

If you have questions regarding the above, please phone Chris Fraser Senior Operations Officer (Forestry) on (02) 6229 7184.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Charles Hajek'.

CHARLES HAJEK
Forestry Branch – Manager Central & South Operations Unit
Environment Protection Authority

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