



Media Release

On Thursday last week, representative for the Friends of the Mongarlowe River, Harry Laing and Alison Sexton-Green, together with John Studholme from Capital to Coast: a Journey on Foot, had a brief but promising meeting with Deputy Premier and local member John Barilaro to discuss concerns about current logging operations in compartment 517 on the historic Corn Trail.

The harvest of the 294 hectare compartment is about half way through and the Friends of the Mongarlowe River are calling urgently calling for a stop work moratorium.

John Studholme representing the interests of eco-tourism explained that there is a lot of support for a walk from the Capital to the Coast and that the current logging operations poses a significant threat to the Corn Trail and the Buckenbowra River.

Harry Laing went on to describe how the current logging operation is not economically viable with a return to NSW Forest Corporation estimated at being between \$150,000 and \$200,000.

John Barilaro agreed that "It's not worth it" in particular when he learnt that 60% of the harvested timber will go for wood chips and firewood.

"It's not worth the destruction of this forest and while there isn't a carbon price as yet, it's coming shortly and these trees will be worth more as stored carbon" Harry Laing said.

"It's not worth the grief you'll get from this community either and that's not just the greenies, it's people who take their horses down the trail, bushwalkers and campers who are asking why is this happening on the Corn Trail."

Deputy Premier, John Balilaro agreed then and there to look into this and John Studholme and Friends of the Mongarlowe River representatives both left him with more detailed information about our call for an immediate stop work moratorium on logging the Corn Trail Forest.

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