



Friends of the Forest (Mogo)



GULAGA (Mt Dromedary) PROTECTION GROUP



Canberra Forest Alliance



Don't Log The Corn Trail

16 September 2019

The Chairperson and Members
NSW Government Forest Monitoring Steering Committee
C/- Natural Resources Commission
GPO Box 5341, Sydney NSW 2001
Email: nrc@nrc.nsw.gov.au

Dear Forest Monitoring Steering Committee

Re: CIFOA Forest Monitoring and Improvement Program – Community Nominated Foundational Projects

We are writing to the Steering Committee as an alliance of community forest conservation groups from the South Coast region to urgently request that you prioritise a number of high conservation value forest areas currently scheduled for logging in our region in your ‘foundational projects’ monitoring work.

The planned logging of these nominated forests poses a high risk of serious and irreversible harm to the biodiversity and threatened species, water quality, forest health, carbon storage and other values of these forests. It is imperative that independent and scientifically robust baseline studies are commenced and underway in these nominated forests well in advance of any planned logging proceeding.

We do not believe that logging in any of these forests can proceed without unacceptable environmental, cultural, community and economic detriment.

In making this nomination we note the recent [Communique #1](#) from the Steering Committee which says in part,

Foundational projects

The Steering Committee agreed to a selection process and criteria for foundational projects under the Program. Foundational projects will initiate the Program’s investment in monitoring of core metrics of forest ecosystem health (such as biodiversity, forest regeneration, water quality), aligned to the objectives of ecologically sustainable forest management in NSW. Foundational projects may also include evaluation and research projects, aimed at improving management.

Project partnerships are encouraged by the Steering Community, between NSW agencies and with external organisations. The projects must align to the aims and principles of the Forest Monitoring Program Strategy, including responding to information needs for decision-making and community preferences, and reporting on alignment to the Montreal Ecologically Sustainable Forest Management Criteria and Indicators.

Community-nominated forests

The community-nominated high conservation value forests for priority monitoring are attached. As indicated in the attached table, community representatives would be keen to provide you with more detailed information on any of the nominated forests AND to host a visit to the relevant forests to show you their conservation significance in person.

We would also like to invite you to meet these groups listed on the South Coast and Eden as a group to discuss the overall list and issues raised.

We look forward to hearing from you, recognising that the commencement of logging in some of these forests is imminent. Most critical is Compartment 3004 in Bodalla State Forest due to start in October that is next to estuarine Lake Brou and adjacent to Eurobodalla National Park that has the Brou Lake North Sanctuary Zone that is part of the Batemans Bay Marine park. The Lake Brou compartment is similar to the Corunna Forest compartment that was subject to much community pressure last year.

Yours sincerely

Joslyn van der Moolen

The Coastwatchers' Association Incorporated

Nick Hopkins

Friends of the Forest (Mogo) Don't Log the Corn Trail

Judith Bourne

Canberra Forest Alliance

Harry Laing

The Friends of Mongarlowe River Incorporated

Sean Burke

Guluga (Mt Dromedary) Protection Group

Harriet Swift

The South East Regional Conservation Alliance (SERCA) Incorporated

Peter Day

Tantawangalowe Forest Group

David Gallan

NPA – Far South Coast Branch

Make-up of the Forest Monitoring Steering Committee:

- NSW Natural Resources Commissioners (Independent chair)
- Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
- Environment Protection Authority
- Department of Premier and Cabinet inc. Aboriginal Affairs and Heritage
- Local Lands Services
- Forestry Corporation of NSW
- **Four independent experts:**
 - Professor Patrick Baker, former Australian Research Council Future Fellow and School of Ecosystem and Forest Sciences, University of Melbourne
 - Associate Professor Phillip Gibbons, Fenner School of Environment and Society, Australian National University
 - Associate Professor Jacki Schirmer, Institute for Applied Ecology & Health Research Institute, University of Canberra and Senior Adjunct Fellow at the Fenner School of Environment and Society, Australian National University
 - Dr Peter Hairsine, Centre for Water and Landscape Dynamics at the Fenner School of Environment and Society, Australian National University