



Coastwatchers

Eurobodalla's voice for nature

Media Release 26 June 2020

FOREST EMBASSY

Co-hosted with Brooman State Forest Conservation Group

Monday 29 June 9.30-10.30 am

Princes Highway cnr of Boardinghouse Road

Map on [Forest Embassy](#) facebook event

Drone pic will be taken of Forest Embassy in front of the *State Forests of the South Coast* Sign



Residents will show their concern about logging South Brooman State Forest that is a postfire wildlife refuge and ongoing EPA investigation of illegal logging breaches including trees with hollows being cut down and exclusion zones being logged.



Spokesperson Brian Bennett 0455 865085 from Brooman State Forest Conservation Group [Facebook](#) and local accommodation provider can be interviewed prior to the event by arrangement (no reception at house and Princes Highway will be noisy on the day). Also contact Shannon on 0457 615 989 (full name not provided for privacy).

Coastwatchers is on [Facebook](#) Contact Jos on 0439 472 921 (full name not provided for privacy).

Residents will be spaced out in area including beside their cars on both sides of Boardinghouse Road facing the Princes Highway (up to 20) or divide into groups if >20

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Protected Trees with Hollows Cut Down in Unburnt NSW Forests

**EPA Launches Investigation following Environmental Groups multiple reports
of illegal South Brooman logging – South Coast NSW**

The native forestry industry is failing to meet NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) requirements. A recent inspection of South Brooman State Forest showed contractors have not complied with EPA requirements.

Locals were shocked and distressed to find numerous trees with wildlife hollows (protected under EPA requirements) cut down in the logging operation. Trees with hollows are essential for the breeding of forest-dwelling threatened species including cockatoos, owls, gliders and possums.

Following the bushfires, the EPA imposed [site specific operating conditions](#) for the logging industry include the requirement to retain all trees with hollows and all unburned and lightly burned forest. Hollows were found in numerous cut down red mahogany tree tops demonstrating all red mahogany gums must be kept standing. As the wood taken from these trees with hollows have been illegally harvested, it is clear logging in native forests must stop immediately.

Following this inspection up to twenty reports were filed with the EPA on Sunday 21 June. On Monday the EPA advised a full investigation is underway. As well as non-compliance photos of many tree hollows in Red Mahogany canopies being cut down, also reported was the destruction of protected cabbage tree palms despite EPA requirements for an extra 10m buffer around all rainforest, logging machinery intrusion into the Riverflat Eucalypt Forest - Threatened Ecological Communities and logging on 24 to 26 degree slopes despite the EPA post bushfire maximum prohibiting logging over 20 degrees.

Bridge Creek is a haven for wildlife, as much of the creek and the surrounding area was spared by recent fires that swept the area. The harvest plan map available at the NSW forestry portal (<https://planportal.fcnsw.net/>) illustrates how the area currently being logged is surrounded by sloping creeklines that run into Bridge Creek, unburnt forest and wildlife protected areas.

The north facing catchment between Bridge Creek Road and Bridge Creek is predominantly spotted gum forest with blackbutt, ironbark, stringybark and peppermint trees. The Riverflat Eucalypt Forest – Threatened Ecological Community (TEC) runs along Bridge Creek and a major tributary features forest red gums and swamp mahogany trees with rainforest spreading out on both sides of the creek. Under the EPA bushfire conditions this threatened ecological community requires a 35 metres buffer zone. As contractors have driven logging machinery directly through the protected riverflat eucalypt forest this has been reported to the EPA.

The NSW Government bionet has records in the compartment for critically endangered swift parrots, a spotted tailed quoll, powerful owls and squirrel gliders. This biodiverse area started being logged in May 2020 with three quarters of the expected yield comprising low quality products dominated by pulpwood (31%), firewood (16%) and salvage sawlogs (28%). Of the remaining high quality yield 9% are small sawlogs and only 16% large sawlogs.

Additional concerns to locals living adjacent to state forests are the increased fuel load from logging (up to 450 tonnes per hectare - David Lindenmayer) and driving risk and dirt road damage from logging trucks.

The environmental concerns to surviving wildlife, increased fuel load and traffic risk to local communities shows why the forestry industry must immediately convert to 100 percent plantation forestry. Plantation trees are efficient to grow, transport and process into wood and fibre as exemplified by the plantation industry hub at Tumut.

Coastwatchers supports the Eden Monaro Environmental Alliance [Policy platform](#) and [Launch media release](#) now available as pdf downloads from the NCC website,

Photos and quoted documents available on [google docs](#) and can be provided as separate files:



Red mahogany trees with wildlife hollows were cut down against EPA rules



One of many trees cut down with hollows logged illegally (provided with Media Release)



Much of the compartment is unburnt



Logging machinery in South Brooman
This contractor came from Tasmania after being paid out (source?).



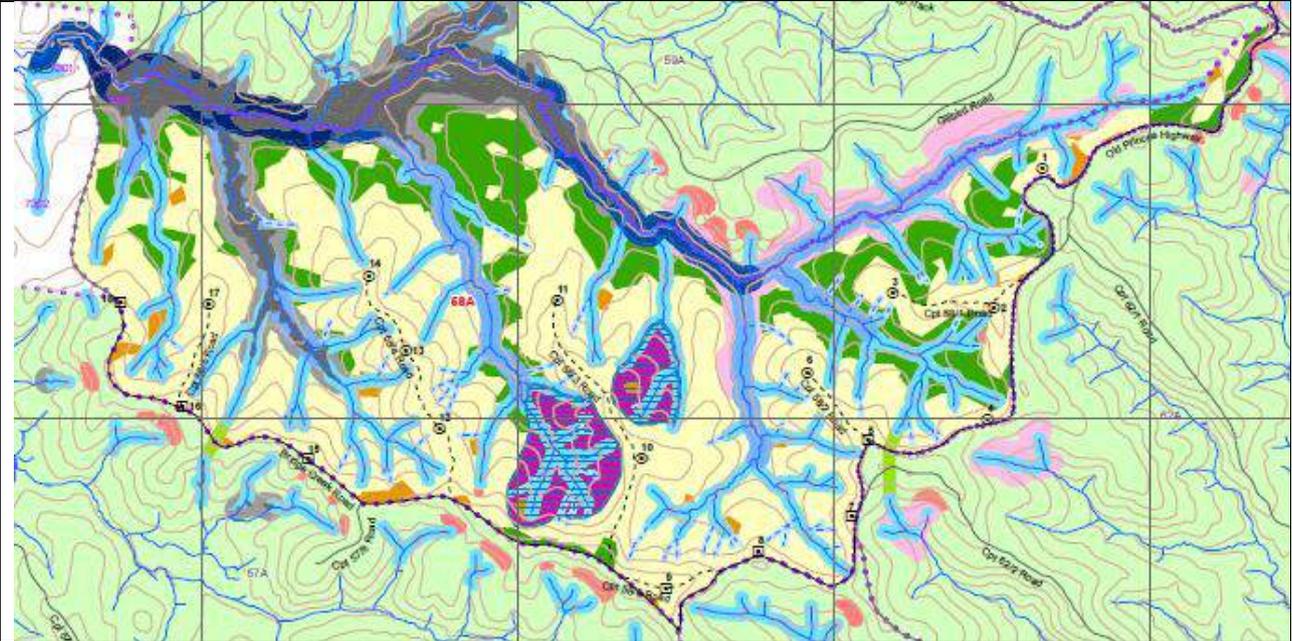
Yield 31% pulpwood, 16% firewood, 28% low quality salvage, 9% small sawlogs, 16% large sawlogs



Defaced termite mound at logging dump – matches marking paint used in forestry operation



Defaced stump matches defaced termite mound in logdump next to unburnt forest



Compartment 58A South Brooman Forest Harvest Plan map - showing unburnt forest in green, partially burnt forest in amber, multiple creeklines for catchment of Bridge Creek in blue and wildlife protection in pink stripes, rainforest pink and riverflat eucalypt endangered ecological community in dark grey. Full harvest plan map with legend provided as separate file.

References:

Coastal Integrated Forestry Operations Approvals (CIFOA)

[Protocols & Conditions](https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/your-environment/native-forestry/integrated-forestry-operations-approvals/coastal-ifo) <https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/your-environment/native-forestry/integrated-forestry-operations-approvals/coastal-ifo>

Site specific conditions for burnt or partially burnt forest per compartment plan >March 2020

<https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/your-environment/native-forestry/bushfire-affected-forestry-operations>

Following the fires the EPA conditions for bushfire affected forests as follows:

The EPA advises that the document overseeing Forestry Corporation NSW entitled [Coastal Integrated Forestry Operation Approval \(IFOA\)](#) was not designed to moderate the environmental risks associated with harvesting in landscapes that have been so extensively and severely impacted by fire. This has required the EPA to issue additional site-specific conditions that tailor protections for the specific circumstances of these burnt forests.

The rules for timber harvesting in fire-affected areas include

- *A new requirement which requires the retention of unburned or lightly burned forest in these sites to ensure they can provide ongoing refuge and food for animals that persisted during the fires.*

- *Increased protections around landscape features like rainforest, rocky outcrops and heathy vegetation as these areas often provide important shelter and food resources for animals, and the right environmental conditions for the regeneration of unique native plants.*
- *Increased protections for hollow-bearing trees and important feed trees to ensure more nesting and food resources are retained and protected.*

Adjustments to retained trees requirements

Adjustments to the retention requirements for hollow-bearing trees

22. Despite any condition to the contrary in the **approval**:

- (a) All ***hollow-bearing trees***, and any trees that would fit the definition of ***hollow-bearing trees*** if they were alive, must be permanently retained.