



Coastwatchers

Eurobodalla's Voice for Nature Media Release

Eurobodalla's Native Forests – Worth More Standing Nature's Carbon Sink and Environment and Eco-tourism

16 August 2022

Coastwatchers Association, Eurobodalla's flagship environment group, has applauded Eurobodalla Shire Councillors for voting to advocate to end native forest logging so contractors work 100% in plantations.

The original April motion was deferred so councillors could receive briefings from stakeholders which included experts in the fields of economics, forest ecology, threatened species and fire behaviour as well as Forestry Corporation and members of the community including citizen scientists.

Spokesperson for Coastwatchers Forest Working Group, Joslyn van der Moolen, said *"Finally we have a Council, who have taken the time to understand the critical issues, at the heart of both the biodiversity crisis and the climate crisis. Ending native forest logging in NSW, will enable biodiverse carbon storage in public state native forests, over 400,000 hectares in southern NSW. Stopping logging will see 950,000 tonnes of carbon emissions saved every year in the region. This is equivalent to over half of the emissions from electricity, transport, waste and agriculture in the Eurobodalla Shire alone and over 20% of emissions overall in six shires. This is an easy step the NSW Government can take, in the battle our communities face to reverse global heating."*

Greens councillor Alison Worthington tabled the motion for the second time on August 9 and patiently shepherded it through to achieve majority agreement that native forest logging is incompatible with the shire's and the region's investments in nature based tourism, climate mitigation and biodiversity protection.

Van der Moolen continues *"This is a brave and outstanding achievement not only by the majority of councillors themselves but also the community who have tirelessly put this case up for debate for years. The recent ePetition to NSW Parliament that will be presented to NSW parliament on 15 September, the Natural Resources Commission report on post fire logging, the Parliamentary Inquiry into the Future of the Timber Industry and the State of the Environment Report demonstrate to state government*

that there will be much political capital to be made by supporting an industry plan to transition to 100% sustainable plantation forestry.”

Eurobodalla Shire Councillors resolved to write to state government to advocate to the urgently develop such a transition plan. Other Councillors around NSW are now looking to bring forward a similar motion as part of the groundswell calling for change.

Councillor Worthington was at pains to point out this transition can be made while maintaining good relationships between Council and Forestry Corporation. Public native forests would continue to be managed for fire mitigation and weed and pest control, aligned with growing community concern about the state of the environment and the climate.

WA and Victoria have already announced new investments in plantations to secure the future of wood supply and jobs in the timber industry when native forest logging ends in those states. Especially in the wake of the Black Summer fires NSW should seize this opportunity for a planned industry transition.

Regards

Joslyn van der Moolen – Coastwatchers’ Forest Working Group

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Coastwatchers aims to protect the local environment and preserve the integrity of the ecological systems of the South Coast of NSW and opposes the unnecessary destruction and degradation of natural systems.

8. NOTICES OF MOTION 9 August 2022

NOM22/011 - EUROBODALLA SHIRE COUNCIL SUPPORTS AN END TO NATIVE FOREST LOGGING IN EUROBODALLA SHIRE

File Ref: S012-T00025

22/181 MOTION Councillor Worthington/Councillor Grace

Carried Items

1. *THAT Council notes the growing concern of members of our community that the current native forest logging practice within the Eurobodalla by Forestry Corporation in our State Forests and that practices should be revised against current best practice within Australia and globally.*

For the Motion: Crs T Dannock, P Diskon, D Grace, T Harrison, M Hatcher, R Pollock OAM and A Schutz. Against the Motion: Cr A Worthington.

2. *THAT Council notes that logging in our State Forests is incompatible with our shire's and our region's investments in nature-based tourism enterprises, climate change mitigation and the protection of biodiversity.*

For the Motion: Crs T Dannock, P Diskon, D Grace, M Hatcher and A Worthington. Against the Motion: Crs T Harrison, R Pollock OAM and A Schutz.

3. *THAT Council advocates to the NSW Government for the urgent development of a plan for the just transition of the Forestry Corporation NSW native forest sector to ecologically sustainable plantations and farm forestry and that such plans ensure the protection of existing jobs in this sector and ensure a reliable supply of high value native hardwood timber products into the future.*

For the Motion: Crs T Dannock, P Diskon, D Grace, M Hatcher, A Schutz and A Worthington. Against the Motion: Crs T Harrison and R Pollock OAM.

3. *THAT Council in such advocacy, write to the NSW Premier Dominic Perrottet, the Minister for Agriculture Dugald Saunders, and the shareholder Ministers for FCNSW the Treasurer and Minister for Energy Matt Kean, and the Minister for Finance and Employee Relations Damien Tudehope, along with the relevant Shadow Ministers. Council also notes the positive relationship that currently exists between Forestry Corporation NSW and Council.*

For the Motion: Crs T Dannock, P Diskon, D Grace, T Harrison, M Hatcher, R Pollock OAM, A Schutz and A Worthington. Against the Motion: Nil.

LOST MOTION

AMENDMENT Councillor Worthington/Councillor Grace

1. *THAT Council notes the growing evidence that native forest logging by Forestry Corporation of NSW (FCNSW) in our State Forests is both economically and environmentally unsustainable. Also noting that the NSW Environmental Protection Agency has issued FCNSW over \$600,000 in fines this year alone for non-compliance in native forest logging operations in our publicly-owned state forests. These fines include penalties for breaches in forests in Eurobodalla shire both pre and post-bushfires and compromise the stated financial viability and environmental sustainability of FCNSW operations in native forest logging.*

(The Amendment on being put was declared LOST)

For the Motion: Crs D Grace and A Worthington. Against the Motion: Crs T Dannock, P Diskon, T Harrison, M Hatcher, R Pollock OAM and A Schutz.

Not Seconded Not Debated

4. *THAT Council advocate that the NSW State government enact plans to manage our State Forests, in partnership with south coast communities and local councils, for their nature-based tourism assets, recreational opportunities, biodiversity values and for carbon sequestration.*

(As there was no seconder, the Motion on being put was not debated)