

## EUROBODALLA SHIRE COUNCIL

### PUBLIC FORUM

All members of the community who have registered have been advised that they have a **maximum of seven minutes** to put their case.

Ordinary Meeting of Council on **9 August 2022**

Name	Subject/Comments	Hybrid
<b>Public Forum – 9.30am</b>		
Brett Stevenson obo A Better Eurobodalla (ABE)	MR22/012 Community Engagement Framework and Participation Plan - Amendment	Zoom
Charlie Bell	NOM22/011 Eurobodalla Shire Council supports an end to native forest logging in Eurobodalla Shire	In person
Joslyn van der Moolen	NOM22/011 Eurobodalla Shire Council supports an end to native forest logging in Eurobodalla Shire	In person
Fiona McCuaig	NOM22/011 Eurobodalla Shire Council supports an end to native forest logging in Eurobodalla Shire	In person
Patricia Hellier	NOM22/011 Eurobodalla Shire Council supports an end to native forest logging in Eurobodalla Shire	Zoom

**ABE Public Forum Presentation 8<sup>th</sup> August 2022 Regarding MR22/012  
Community Engagement Framework and Participation Plan -  
Amendment**

Good morning. Thank you for the opportunity to address Council regarding MR22/012 Community Engagement Framework and Participation Plan - Amendment.

I am presenting today as the Co-convenor of A Better Eurobodalla (ABE), a community forum working to achieve open, accountable and responsive government in Eurobodalla.

ABE has applied our principles of good governance to today's agenda item dealing with a proposed Amendment to the Community Engagement Framework and Participation Plan (hereafter the CEFPP). ABE considers an effective CEFPP is vital for good governance by Council and Council's staff, and has referenced the document in previous presentations to Council in February 2021 and March 2022.

The amendment currently proposed would require Council to provide written notification to adjoining owners of land which is subject of a development application that does not apply the acceptable solution for setbacks in the relevant Development Control Plan (DCP), and provide a period of 14 days for a response to be made to Council. The amendment would apply to all DCPs within the Eurobodalla Shire, as listed in MR22/012.

ABE strongly supports the proposed amendment in Mayoral Report 22/012, as it bolsters the key principles already contained within the CEFPP, which was adopted by the previous Council on 26 November 2019. This Plan embodies good principles to guide Council's approach to engaging the community. They are to:

- *Be open and inclusive;*
- *Generate mutual trust and respect, and be accountable;*
- *Engage early and provide information that is clear;*
- *Be considerate and provide feedback; and*
- *Value and acknowledge skills and resources.*

Importantly the Plan tells us that '*Ineffective or tokenistic community engagement can be detrimental to the good faith of the community in the long term*' (P4).

Additionally, in providing direction to staff, the Plan speaks convincingly about engagement levels and methods describing five levels of participation as:

- *Inform;*
- *Consult;*
- *Involve;*
- *Collaborate;* and
- *Empower.*

Under the heading '*Consult: What will we say*' and '*What will we do*' the direction is: '*We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.*'

And under the heading '*Involve*' the Plan states: "*We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how*".

This approach is laudable and ABE recommends all interested community members should familiarise themselves with the commitments that Council has made in the Plan.

However, the recent planning approval at Surf Beach brought to Council's attention at Public Access on both the 19<sup>th</sup> July and 2<sup>nd</sup> August has highlighted that the CEFPP requires greater clarity to ensure its key principles are realised in practice, and the amendment proposed in Mayoral Report 22/012 presents a sensible step to forestall reoccurrence of similar problems in the future. In the absence of the proposed amendment, the current interpretation of the CEFPP effectively removes even the most basic level of engagement (i.e. to inform an affected landholder), and has created a situation where Council staff can make significant long term decisions affecting adjoining landholders without them being made aware these critical processes are under way. This is not public engagement – it is public disengagement.

While the proposed amendment will have some downside effects in that it will increase workloads for some staff, and may slow down the rate of approval for some Development Applications, these will be offset by better informed and transparent planning outcomes in the longer term. The key determinants for effective planning need to be seen in terms of improved outcomes rather than easier or faster processes – the end result is what matters, not the ease or speed of how you achieved the goal.

The only part of the recommendation in MR22/012 for which ABE harbours concerns is part iii, which states that Council will "*Reconsider this matter as part of a review by Council of the Community Engagement Framework and Participation Plan*". It is not clear to ABE why this sensible amendment should be singled out for particular attention during the upcoming review, as this could facilitate reoccurrence of the planning problems which this amendment aims to prevent. ABE therefore recommends that that Mayoral Report be amended to remove part iii of the Recommendation.

In summary, Council should support today's amendment in MR 22/012 in order to achieve better governance and improved long-term planning outcomes in the Eurobodalla.

Thank you for your attention

Dr Brett Stevenson  
Co-Convenor  
A Better Eurobodalla

**Charlie Bell, Tomakin.**

**Public Forum Presentation 9th August 2022 Regarding NOM22/011 EUROBODALLA SHIRE COUNCIL SUPPORTS AN END TO NATIVE FOREST LOGGING IN EUROBODALLA SHIRE**

Good morning. Thank you for this opportunity to speak.

My work history has been almost 40 years with CSIRO doing forestry research into tree breeding. I worked on a range of projects to help better understand aspects of environmental issues and tree improvement processes with a research goal of improving the efficiency and financial return of the Australian forest industry. Today, I'll mostly leave environmental and ecological comment to others and concentrate on the economic benefits available by transitioning from native forest logging to eucalypt plantation forestry.

One of my first recollections as a junior researcher in the mid 1970s, was of discussions between senior CSIRO forestry researchers and NSW Forestry staff, where a principal message was that there should be a transition out of native forest logging into hardwood plantations because the economics of native forest logging didn't stack up. 45 years later and we are still having the same discussion for the same reason. It's a historical anomaly, and in my view, a result of decades of poor State political decision making that has seriously hindered the modernisation of hardwood forestry practices in NSW, particularly in our South Coast regions.

There are about 20 million hectares of eucalypt plantations in the world (Fig 1.) and with the possible exception of China they are primarily managed by private companies to return a profit. Australia is 4<sup>th</sup> on the list with 0.9Mha, behind Brazil 4.3Mha, India 3.9Mha and China 2.6Mha.

Within Australia, WA, Vic, and Tas all have profitable hardwood plantation industries. (SA, NSW and Qld also have profitable softwood plantation industries. Fig 2.). NSW has profitable softwood plantations, but very little eucalypt plantation area. The establishment of profitable eucalypt plantations in NSW is undercut by the subsidised native forest industry in the state.

Figures 3 and 4 show data extracted from Forestry Corporation of NSW annual reports and shows the NSW native forest logging industry making a loss of about \$10 million dollars per year That loss is subsidised by profits from the softwoods plantation industry and other Forestry Corporation activities. Native forest logging is not only subsidised at the State level, but Shire facilities and resources are also used by an industry that does not contribute by the payment of rates to the Shire.

So, why is NSW native forest logging uneconomic? The two main reasons are the end use product mix and the inefficient production practices (relative to plantation practices).

**Product use.**

95% of our native forests become woodchips for export for paper making and about 5% is used for solid wood products. While eucalypt woodchips are the preferred feedstock for much of our glossy paper products like photocopy paper and magazine pages, woodchips are a very low value product.

In 2016, logs for woodchips were worth about \$135/m<sup>3</sup> while logs for solid wood products were worth about \$422/m<sup>3</sup>, or 3 times as much.

**Production practices.**

Plantation timber yield is higher than native forest timber yield for 4 main reasons; better growth rates, higher stocking rates, genetic improvement, and lower harvest/freight costs. My work experience is that it is possible to achieve about 5 times more yield per hectare for “low tech” plantations, and up to 10 times more for “high tech” plantations, like those in Spain and Portugal, compared to native forest logging.

**Growth rates.**

Most native forest logging in our region is on shallow soils and often rocky, steep terrain. Plantations on poor or marginal agricultural land still benefit from higher soil fertility and higher soil moisture availability. Standard silviculture and nutrition practices that can be used in plantations also increase growth rates relative to native forests.

**Stocking rates.**

Plantations only contain prime value species, not a broad mix of many undesirables like in a native forest. Plantations are generally planted at about 3 metres apart, give a financial return at first thinning at about 15 years of age, and still carry more timber per hectare at final crop than do native forests.

**Genetics.**

The obvious gains from genetic improvement in most agricultural products – cattle, sheep, wheat, etc can easily be achieved in plantation forestry but not in native forests. That gain is “off the shelf” now and has been for decades and is used in other Australian States.

**Harvesting costs.**

Plantations have many more extractable cubic metres of timber per hectare than native forest and trees in neat rows, so much shorter and easier snigging distances to log heaps. Most plantation areas are established on marginal, low productivity agricultural land (to reduce harvest costs and complexity) and preferably close to main roads and export facilities (to reduce transport costs).

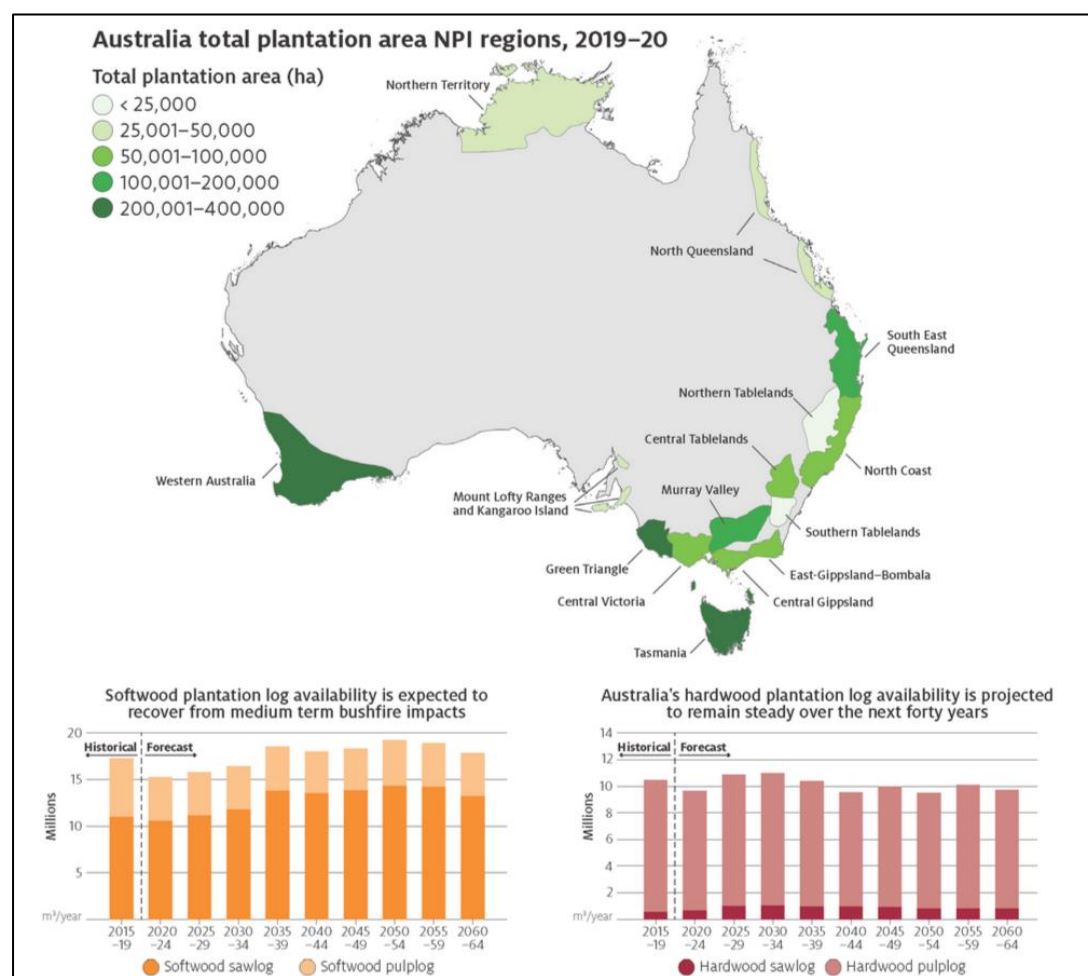
**Conclusions**

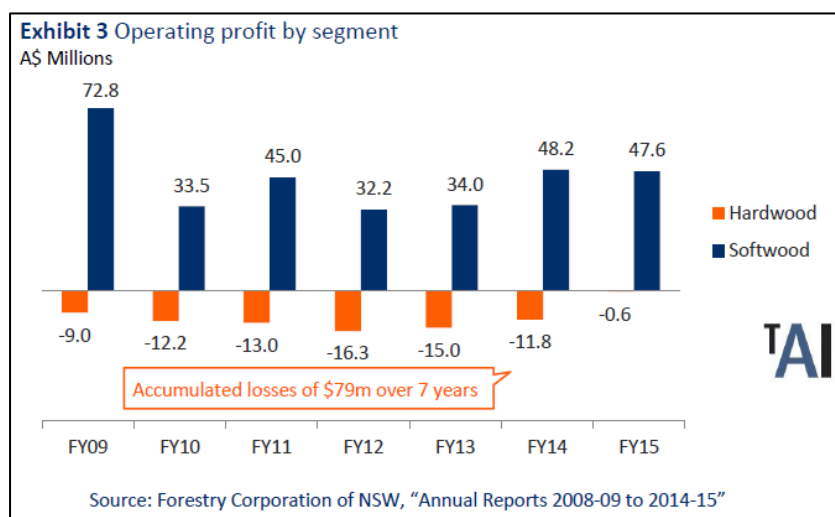
Plantation forestry is economically profitable. Native forest logging is not, and it’s also not environmentally sustainable. Native forest logging is not in line with the Eurobodalla Shire Council policy to “strive to deliver services to our community that provide value for money on a quadruple bottom line basis”.

Native forest logging is principally a State matter, but it is particularly relevant to our Shire. WA and Vic have already announced their phase out timetables for native forest logging, and the NSW parliament is about to receive a petition to end native forest logging. I ask you, Councillors, to please support today’s motion to Council that asks you to support the desires of the Eurobodalla community and request the NSW State government to phase out native forest logging.

**Fig 1. Eucalypt plantations across the world**

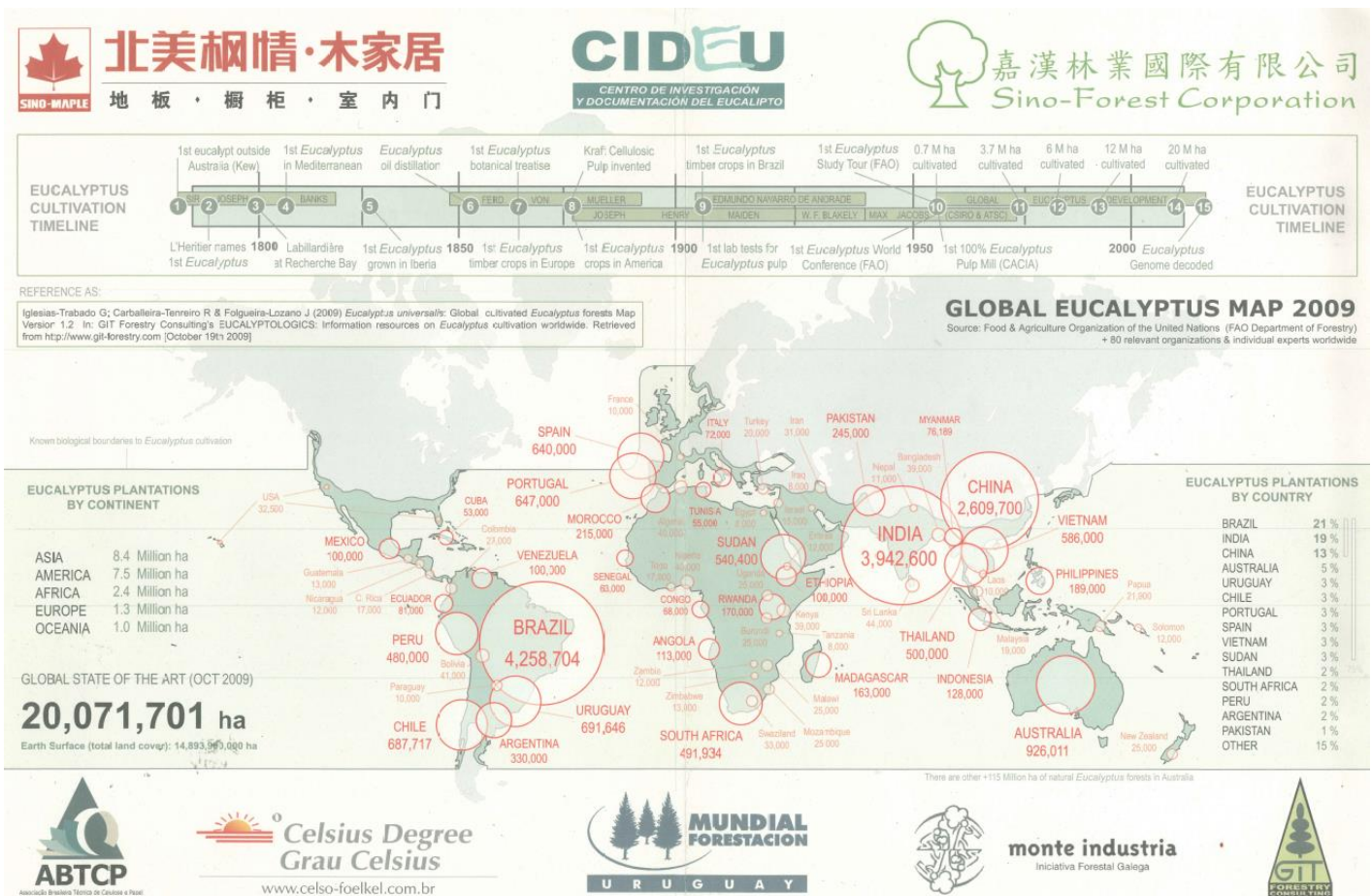
Top 10 nations and world total in millions of hectares in 2009	
Brazil	4.3
India	3.9
China	2.6
<b>Australia</b>	<b>0.9</b>
Uruguay	0.7
Chile	0.7
Portugal	0.6
Spain	0.6
Vietnam	0.6
Sudan	0.5
World Total	20.1

**Figure 2. Australian plantation areas and log use statistics.**

**Figure 3. Title page of a report into the economics of native forest logging in NSW.****Fig 4. Extract of data from Forestry Corporation of NSW annual reports.**



## Eucalypt plantations across the world in 2009.



8 August 2022

“Eurobodalla’s State Forests - Worth More Standing - Nature’s Carbon Sink,

*Italicised text – not spoken*

Good morning, Mayor, Councillors, general public. I acknowledge, we are meeting, today on Yuin Country, and pay my respects to indigenous leaders - current, past and emerging.

I am Joslyn van der Moolen from the Coastwatchers Association, Forest Working Group.

To support the motion for Council to write to the NSW Government, to advise local support to end native forest logging in public state forests, I am going to briefly highlight the importance of the role of native state forests, in the Eurobodalla as a carbon sink. Then key points on Eurobodalla forestry jobs and the role of an Industry Pine Plantation Plan to secure the future of jobs in Forestry and secure future wood supply for the construction sector.

There are 11 publicly native forests in the Eurobodalla that cover 30% of the shire. These are Currowan, Boyne, Benandarah, Bolero, Mogo, Buckenbowra, Wandera, Moruya, Dampier, Bodalla and Corunna State Forests.

NSW has 2 million hectares of public forest managed by Forestry of which half is subject to logging. As the 11 forests in the Eurobodalla total over 100,000 hectares, the Eurobodalla has 10% of this forest.

We all know trees draw down carbon and store this in the tree. And that cutting down trees releases this stored carbon. These carbon emissions come from the following sources.

- **Onsite carbon from entire treetops left on the ground** *Up to 67% of the tree to decompose or get burnt off by Forestry.*
- **Harvested wood products that convert to carbon** *Overall native forests in southern NSW, end up, mainly used for short lived products that convert to carbon within a few years. The majority of native forest in southern NSW is exported as woodchips.*
- **Landfill** *Some local trees are made into pallets at Narooma sawmill.*
- **Fossil emissions from management, transport and wood processing.**

So how much carbon is no longer released, if we stop logging our public native state forests in southern NSW, covering the Eden and South Coast area?

The key finding from the Frontier Report, released last year, is that 950,000 tonnes, of carbon emissions, would be avoided every year, if logging stopped in southern NSW.

The Eurobodalla has one quarter of the state forest in southern NSW. So, the Eurobodalla's one quarter share, of 950,000 tonnes of carbon emissions, is 245,000 tonnes.

*So, what is 950,000 tonnes of carbon emissions equal to? Figures from the Tasmanian Tree Projects report, 2022, show that one million tonnes of saved emissions is equal to 224,000 cars being taken off the road.*

So, stopping logging avoids the release of 245,000 tonnes of emissions in the Eurobodalla every year. So how does this compare to our annual emissions from electricity, transport, agriculture and waste. This is equal to over half, of the total annual missions from electricity, transport, agriculture and waste in the Eurobodalla (that total 440,000 tonnes every year).

This the key result. That the emissions saved, from stopping logging the 11 native state forests that covers 30% of the shire, will negate over half of the Eurobodalla Shire's total emissions from electricity, transport, agriculture and waste. Our spotted gum forests have the ability to be a significant carbon store.

What about forestry jobs in the Eurobodalla? The Forestry website claims there are 20,000 jobs in NSW in the wood products industry. Yet we have only 300 jobs (Frontier p35) in forestry in southern NSW and of this 52 forestry jobs are in the Eurobodalla (2019/20). *In 2021 from 120 harvest and haulage jobs as well as 200 processing jobs mainly in pine plantation sawmills (down from the total of 464 in 2019/20 p36).*

With 28 staff at the Batemans Bay Forestry office, over half of these 52 jobs are government jobs. The Narooma palette mill, would have around 15 jobs and Kasun that relocated to Moruya (in 2011) after being paid out (over a million) to exit logging in Tasmania, has a few logging contractors. Forestry NSW confirm there are only 7 contractors working on the South Coast. *There are also other contractors travelling from Eden and as far as East Gippsland.*

Operations in Mogo State Forest typically have two contractors working for a few months. There is a logging harvester and a snigger contractor and long distance truck drivers transport the cut trees to the woodchip mill, wood yards and the Narooma palette mill. *The Narooma mill, previously owned by Boral, recently sold to Pentarch the woodchip owners.*

*This total job figure of 52 jobs is trending down, due to hardwood mill closures and the transition to contractors and drivers switching to harvesting pine plantations in Bombala and Tumut. When the wood supply agreement for Blue Ridge Hardwood mill was awarded to the Eden woodchip mill, this mill closed. It has been reopened at a smaller capacity by South Coast Timber who now mainly source wood from private property owners. North Eden Timber at Pambula also sources timber from private properties.*

*Stopping public native forest logging will not affect these mills as Forestry already has given the wood supply to the woodchip mill. It does bring into question the issue of wood supply agreements and monopoly practices. With the hardwood mill closures the reality is becoming crystal clear. It is the woodchip mill that is driving publicly funded native forest logging.*

*So, to contrast NSW with WA in relation to state funding for the forestry sector. Forestry is a state corporation, meaning, the state government pays the forestry staff, who do all the planning, including tendering for the contractors to log the forest. The state pays for all internal roading and also all the EPA fines for contractor breaches of environmental protection measures. When the trucks get to the woodchip mill, firewood yards or palette mill, a royalty is paid to Forestry per log as low as 28c per tree (David Shoebridge figures for Mogo State Forest, compartment 146 2021).*

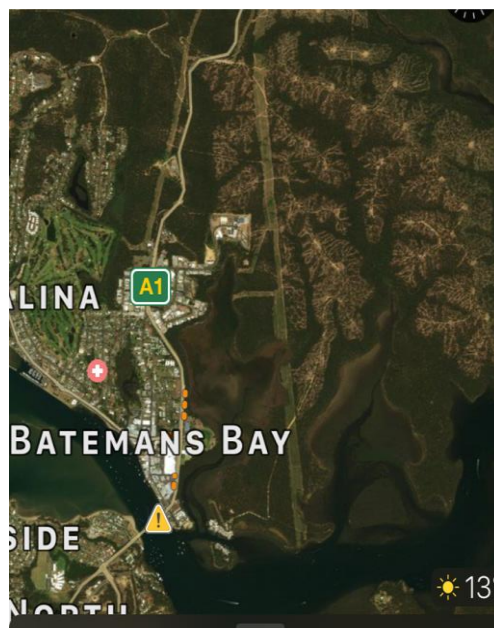
Rather than NSW taxpayers continuing to support the loss-making native forestry sector, an Industry Pine Plantation Plan is needed to continue wood supply for the construction sector and secure work for existing forestry contractors that already switch between logging native forests and pine plantations. WA is investing \$350 million, to expand softwood plantations to create jobs and protect native forests from 2024.

92% of forestry jobs in Australia are in the plantation sector, in work growing and planting pines and processing timber in local sawmills. It is the softwood plantation sector that supplies the construction industry with pine framing, engineered wood and other pine products. The new Bombala pine sawmill has over 50 jobs and in Tumut, there is the state-of-the-art Visy corrugated cardboard mill, pine sawmill and veneer mill.

The two hardwood mills in Eden and Pambula produce a small amount of sawn hardwood timber used in niche building. But this hardwood does not come from Forestry NSW, it comes from private properties as the wood supply agreement was awarded to the woodchip mill that has a monopoly over local mills.

By having an Industry Plantation Plan that sees contractors work 100% in plantations, our local public native forests can remain standing as a carbon sink equal to over half of our emissions which is a significant outcome.

**Mogo State Forest** – Batemans Bay - Google Maps 2018. Scale of logging on the overall landscape. All the brown scarred areas west of the Princes Highway are logged areas.







Logging in Mogo State Forest spotted gum forest by a single contractor – 2021.

# The Economic Value of our Old Growth Forests in the Eurobodalla Shire

## By Fiona McCuaig from Bodalla

I strongly agree to the motion being put forward to end Old Growth Forest Logging (Native forest logging) in Eurobodalla.

The main points of my talk will be as follows:

1. Tourism is the main revenue stream on the South Coast. It is the life-blood of many businesses in Eurobodalla – and visitors come to experience our natural beauty, pristine and mostly in-tact environment.
2. Plantation forestry is the solution to solving wood supply shortages and it's also a business opportunity on the South Coast.
3. **Nature is our Business** – and any destruction to our natural environment is a DIRECT THREAT to local businesses, employment and economic prosperity of this region.
4. We are geographically in a fabulous location in NSW where we are in the centre triangle of Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne and tourist flock here to experience our beauty – and the tourist numbers are growing as the word spreads about our natural environment. Other areas such as north of Sydney have less natural habitat, less birdlife, less creeks where the water is so clean you can drink straight from it. We need to keep our Differential Advantage which is our pristine natural environment and that means protecting it.
5. We have good motels and restaurants – but we don't have the top in NSW with Michelin star restaurants etc... but that is OKAY – because that is not our core business – our business is showcasing our incredible beauty and this is what we have to offer – something which is unique and not many other regions have or have been smart enough to protect.
6. Short term resource extraction has no benefits to our community – it only threatens jobs in tourism now and also for the next generations by eroding our image of “clean & green.” It's ludicrous that our precious hardwood timbers are being sent to Japan as woodchips and made into palettes which have an avg lifespan of 3 months.
7. Our incredible spotted gums which are not only carbon sinks but habitat for native animals are being made into cardboard – the industry supports a handful of people on the south coast and our tax payer money is subsidising it. It's a no-brainer of what we must do.
8. With a significant marketing campaign for the Eurobodalla Shire Region strongly and proudly communicating we have ended native forests logging (like Victoria and WA have) and we have an incredible Marine Park with a network of marine sanctuaries, this:
  - WILL attract more visitors, WILL bring more money to the region, WILL employ more people and will ensure we have a sustainable business model moving forward.
9. We need to think Smart – we need to act Now.
10. I sincerely hope that all Councillors today will vote in favour of this motion – it's a no brainer. We need it for a strong economic future.

The Council or the Public may contact me anytime on the details below:

Thank you

Fiona McCuaig. B.Econ & Masters of Prop Devt

[Mccuaig.fiona@gmail.com](mailto:Mccuaig.fiona@gmail.com)

Phone: 0402 892 759

Good morning Mayor, Councillors, General Manager, Staff, Gallery and those comfortable zooming from home my name is Patricia Hellier from Batemans Bay and I am here today to speak on item number Nom22/011 and attachment Nom22/005 Eurobodalla Shire Council supports the end to Native Forest Logging in the Eurobodalla Shire.

As I presented on this item on the **12<sup>th</sup> April 2022** I ask you Councillors to reflection on my presentation as **I will be reflecting back on sections of that presentation.**

Firstly I note in Clr Worthington motion she states in Annex 6 “**relatively little local employment: less than 50 people in the Southern Forestry** region as a whole are involved with logging and chipping of public Forest” **I strongly dispute these employment figure** and the statement does not including others that are associated with the industry **being truck owners, mechanics, machinery maintenance businesses, fuel providers. Office workers etc.**

I note at the Council Meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> April 2022 a Councillor stated words to the affect “**we have to be able to transition these workers**” **WELL I ask the questions to you the Councillors “how do you transition these workers “like for like” and “wages like for like”?**

In December 2021 a Councillor was elected under the banner of the **Labor Party**. As we all know the **Labor Party are affiliated with Unions** and given in a previous life I represented staff who lost their job and I spoke in the **Industrial Commission** and I know exactly how Unions feel about workers who “lose jobs” therefore I ask that **Clr Grace** to think very seriously about supporting a motion that could ultimately see the loss of many, many jobs in various sectors not just Native Forest Logging.

While Prime Minister Albo might be on a “roll” in Canberra I firmly believe when we see job loses in the Coal and Gas Industries etc I believe there will be a re-vault and Unions will be out in force.

I note that in a recently video clip that appears on an on line media outlet the Beagle Clr Worthington appeared with a “Greens Representative” Clr. Worthington **stated that 3 people spoke** in Council had supported her motion and **1 person spoke against her motion. I proudly put my hand up as the person who spoke against the motion in April and I re affirm that today**, as I strongly believe Eurobodalla is one of the most disadvantage areas in the State with high unemployment and homelessness and we cannot afford to lose any jobs in any areas which could result in further unemployment and homelessness.

Given the many issues that has arisen in this Council over a number of years **I believe this is the first issue that Councillors have been asked to support a motion that potentially could see the loss of jobs in a number of industries in this shire.**

The facts are 30% of timber is currently imported into Australia this motion potentially could result in yet another industry that will be lost to overseas manufacturing!!! **For what benefit ?** Australia’s emissions are **1% of the World Wide emissions**, what difference will it make to Australias emissions if logging is ceased in Eurobodalla?

Biogenic Carbon is stored as long as a building exists, timber consumer minimal amount of energy in its production it can be used as a low-emission substitute for manufacture that requires a larger amount of fossil fuel to be produced such as concrete or steel. **Timber is the ultimate renewable product.**

It should be remembered that the State Government are currently conducting an inquiry into the Timber and Forestry Industry and I believe this motion is trying to **pre -empt** the outcome of this inquiry and **as yet no one is putting forward a viable alternative to replace the production of timber.**

This inquiry met in the Eurobodalla Chambers on Tuesday 5h April 2022 and **Mr Anthony McMahon Chief Executive Officer of Bega Valley** stated that “Forestry was a good neighbour and supported the community during the bushfires and logging was a major contributor to the Bega Valley economy **quoting figures \$120-\$140 million dollars a year** and the Timber Industry worked hand in hand with other industries such as Eco Tourism.

It should be noted that during the bush fires Eurobodalla Forestry in our area also supported our area and I believe they are working with our Council on the Bike Trails in Mogo and Narooma.

As I stated on the 12<sup>th</sup> April 2022 “you Councillors stood on transparency and I note that the issue of “logging” did not appear on any of the elected Councillors manifesto therefore **this was not an “issue that you were elected on” and this issue has not gone out for “Community Consultation” and it certainly does nor pass the pub test.**

In the 2021 Council election there were 32,006 enrolled voters **Clr Worthington received 373** personal votes and the Green vote only **represented 6.7%** of the voters of this shire and it must be asked **WHEN** was this motion of Clr Worthington to end Native Logging **put to the voters of the Eurobodalla?**

I believe there is a motive to this proposal and that is to send a message to the **NSW State Government** and that is that **the entire Eurobodalla voters** supports the end of Native Forest Logging **–and this is incorrect this is driven by the Greens Political Party.**

Patricia Hellier.



Good morning Mayor, Councillors, General Manager, Staff and those that are currently watching via zoom my name is Patricia Hellier from Batemans Bay I would like to speak NOM22/005 “End to Native Forrest Logging in Eurobodalla”.

Firstly I would like you the Councillors to note that contained on our property we have a large variety of trees some are as tall as 40 mtrs.

I question **WHY** is this motion on the Councils Agenda as I believe this is an issue for the NSW State Government and **WHY** has this motion been raised given that there is a current inquiry into Timber and Forrest Industry.

It is known that at the recent Council election you Councillors stood on **“transparency” and I note that the issue of “logging” did not appear on any of the elected Councillors manifesto therefore this was not an “issue that you were elected on” and I would also like it noted that this issue has not gone out for “Community Consultation” and it certainly does not pass the pub test.**

Most of the Councillors would be aware of the recent Public Hearing of the Timber and Forrest Industry that was conducted in the Council Chambers on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2022. It should be noted that Mr Anthony McMahon Acting Chief Executive Officer from Bega Valley stated that Forestry was a good neighbour and Forestry attended a community meeting at Eden during the fires where the RFS was under resourced Forestry changed the dynamics of the meeting given that they were able to offer support. Forestry also participates in Bega’s Bushfire Management Committee and they were at the fore front during the Black Summer fires. Mr McMahon stated that the Logging Industry has been a major contributor to the Bega Valley Economy mentioning figures from \$120 - 140 Million dollars. Mr McMahon stated that the Timber Industry worked hand in hand with other industries such as Eco-Tourism.

I do not intend to go into every detail of this inquiry

I would like to draw your attention to a media release dated 21<sup>st</sup> March 2022 – **“Sustainable Forestry continues to achieve positive outcomes”** this media release was a result of **a conference for International Day of Forest and sustainable production and consumption”**.

Mr David Rowlinson Planet Ark Environmental Foundation’s stated **“The Australian forestry sector is one of the most highly regulated and well regarded in the world”**. Well over 95% of Australian plantations and state forest are certified and the significant majority of the wood used in the construction sector has a chain-of-custody certification. **Certification also ensure that when a tree is harvested another is planted in it’s place.**

Mr Rowlinson said using wood as a construction material **helped to mitigate climate change**. “Wood is the only major building material that is **renewable**. An Australian frame and truss house will use about 12 cubic metres of radiata pine in its structure. This will be regrown in Australian plantations in less that a minute. As a tree grows they absorb **carbon dioxide**. Consequently about half of the dry weight of wood is carbon – so called biogenic carbon – **which is stored as long as the building exists**. Timber consumes **minimal energy in its production** – so called embodied carbon – so it can be used as a low-emission substitute for materials that require larger amount of fossil fuels to be produced , **such as concrete and steel”**.

In relation to logging in our immediate area logging was conducted in an area up from Picnic Road prior to the 2020/21 bush fires it should be noted that since that logging, trees are growing back three fold. Unfortunately due the rain and wet grounds I am unable to get photos of this growth.

During the fires in 2020/21 **we applauded the logging and fire breaks in our area as fires were bearing down on us from from various directions including the Benandarah area.** I believe if we did not have this logging and fire breaks in place north Batemans Bay could have been destroyed this includes Long Beach, Maloney's, Surfside and Bay Ridge.

It should be noted that that South Coast native hardwoods is the base of the most durable composite hardwood boards and unlike plantation pines they do not need chemical treatments to improve their strength and/or durability.

Councillors Logging represents jobs –**the Eurobodalla is one of the lowest social demographic areas in NSW we cannot afford to lose any more jobs** – Councillors if we cease Logging in Australia how are we going to build homes – it should be noted that approximately 30% of timber is currently imported -if we lose the Logging Industry that will be another industry lost to Australians there will be a flow on affect to other related industries that is involved in building a new home including bricklayers, electricians, plumbers, concrete rs, kitchen suppliers etc. then ofcourse there is the purchasing of flooring products, window treatments etc.

**Councillors hand on heart** can you honestly say that there is an expert amongst you Councillors on this subject and can you honestly support a motion which is a **Political Green's Agenda** and commits Eurobodalla to **this political agenda** which will ultimately destroy jobs in many sectors.

Patricia Hellier