

Letter to the editor, Bega District News

Native forest logging – fact check

I am still reeling after reading the adulatory article (BDN 27/3/25) on native forest logging in our region

It began as a report on the highly successful March for the Forests on 23 March, but rapidly degenerated into an advertorial for industrial native forest logging.

I hardly know where to begin, so I'll stick with the most important and basic errors:

It referred to a “widespread belief state forests were being turned into woodchips,” then claimed “all native forest timber harvesting was to produce sawlogs for structural timber like flooring, decking, wharf timbers and power poles.”

Frankly, this is bullshit. In recent years, about 90% of trees felled in the Eden Region were woodchipped. In 2020, it was 96%, with 1.5% for firewood.

Similarly, the glowing comments about protections for the endangered Greater Glider from logging in Glenbog State Forest are delusional. Logging is a big reason why it's facing extinction. Destroying its habitat logged is a death sentence for it.

A few important things omitted:

- Forestry clocking up tens of thousands of dollars in fines for environmental law breaches.
- Growing multi-million dollar annual trading losses (\$29m last year) and direct multi-million dollar subsidies.
- Research shows that young regrowth forest – drier, smaller, even aged and height is a much greater bushfire risk than mature moist forest.
- Ending native forest logging is the quickest, cheapest and easiest way for Australia to meet its carbon reduction targets and play our part in holding back climate change.

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