

Public submission

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Submission to stop native forest logging

In the midst of writing this submission I spent half the night to no avail, trying to discover how to recover my lengthy, fact filled, heartfelt and ponderously worded appeals, which I had accidentally deleted. After many hours of deliberations on how to encourage a decision to stop Native Forest logging, it was gone.

In the morning, my partner came in with a cuppa to wake me up, and as I met the day bleary eyed, she told me of the Satin Bowerbird. There it was, preening it's exquisitely shiny black self once again in the trees outside our kitchen window, after bathing in the birdbath we'd recently placed in our little suburban rainforest garden.

Then it struck me that there was a pertinent analogy to be drawn from those experiences.

Too much time deliberating.....

.....and rationalising about what should or shouldn't be included risks losing the irreplaceable integrity of the whole thing.

All of our native forests need protecting right now

All the scientific facts are there staring everyone that cares in the face, or at least available to see for those who don't, but might think to look one day. No amount of economic rationalising will make it ok to rob future generations of the little that remains of that which previous generations (and ours to a lesser extent) inherited - the wondrous expanse of beautiful forests, rich in biodiversity, and essential to the health and wellbeing of our society and natural ecosystems. Surely, that mode of theft, incremental and insidious as it is, would one day be seen as criminal neglect.

I'm sure there are many iterations of all the benefits they provide (as mine originally did before it was lost), with references to a vast number of scientific studies that support these positions. But the deadline is approaching, and I must hasten my action and not attempt to repeat those already known and stated points. I will however point you towards the sources of information we appreciate and trust, like The Nature Conservation Council, The Australia Institute, and Wilderness Australia, to name a few.

Time is running out

Our forests, in all their amazing complexity, are facing multiple threats, which weaken their resilience and ability to survive the devastating shocks and horrific conditions that they have faced, and will inevitably face again due to climate change, and climate inaction.

Everything we can do today to minimise these shocks and help our forests survive is vitally important! And obviously, ceasing logging operations is the most impactful action to take at this moment in time. A decision to do this now, will be admired and appreciated, both now and in the future.

Our small acts of consideration for the nature in our garden and it's visitors (like the Bowerbird and many others, the possums, and all the other living micro and macro organisms, yield a wonderful amount of pleasure, delight and we hope a good amount of benefit. In comparison to the quickly expanding minimalist Yucca filled suburban deserts, we hope it doesn't pale into insignificance.

Too little action to stop Native Forest logging now, could suffer the same possibility.

Yours sincerely

Ross Simmons 