

THE BASIC FACTS

In NSW, native forestry is little more than sanctioned institutional cruelty that takes the lives of thousands of animals each year, often in gruesome circumstances.

State Forests across NSW represent more than 2 million hectares of land managed by the Forestry Corporation with the primary function of providing timber products including woodchips.

These forests are inhabited by millions of animals, and these animals have little to no protection from the direct impact of logging operations nor the aftermath of their habitats being cut down.

In native forests in particular, the impact on animals like wombats, koalas and sugar gliders is enormous, though Forestry Corporation does not collect any reliable statistics on this impact.

Known impacts include the removal of koala habitat trees, the destruction of wombat burrows and pollution of waterways that native animals rely on.

We urgently need to change this, and to ensure that all logging operations protect both endangered and non-endangered native species.



A DYING INDUSTRY

- Native forestry in NSW is increasingly unprofitable, and in many cases is substantially propped up by the taxpayer.
- In 2013 the amount of native forest cut down in NSW increased by 36 per cent but revenue fell by \$11 million.
- The more aggressive harvesting regime also impacted on threatened species with the number of threatened fauna species sighted in logging operations increasing from 3,018 in 2012/13 to 4,277 in 2012/13.
- In 2013 taxpayers lost on average \$480 for every hectare of public native forests that was logged in NSW.

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authorised by David Shoebridge MLC, NSW Parliament House, Macquarie St, Sydney 2000, October 2014

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CASE STUDY: KOALAS IN ROYAL CAMP STATE FOREST

Even where protections theoretically are in place, routine breaches result in the deaths of animals and loss of crucial habitat.

An audit by the North East Forest Alliance [NEFA] found a large number of license breaches by loggers in Royal Camp State Forest—a stronghold of the beleaguered east coast koalas.

Despite the evidence, only three penalty notices of \$300 each were issued, and there are no requirements to undertake remedial work or protect additional habitat.

Over the years there are likely to have been hundreds of such breaches under these poorly enforced license conditions. *When it comes to precious native animals like the koala, this is simply unacceptable.*



A koala left without habitat after logging in NSW

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CASE STUDY: WOMBATS IN GLENBOG STATE FOREST

In August 2014 a number of bare nosed wombats were buried alive in their burrows during logging at Glenbog State Forest. This was despite local wildlife rescue volunteers painstakingly identifying the burrows using both high visibility markings and tape, and providing forestry workers with GPS coordinates. The wombats in these burrows likely died slow deaths of suffocation or starvation.

Because wombats are not considered endangered there is no penalty likely to be imposed as a result of the death of these wombats, and no planned changes to how logging is carried out in areas with high levels of wombat burrows.



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