

# World Forests Day Protest

## Revocation of Forestry Corp's Social Licence

Coffs Harbour 21<sup>st</sup> March 2016

They came from as far afield as Port Macquarie, Elands, Byron Bay, Clouds Creek, and Glen Innes; more than a hundred Anti-logging campaigners assembled outside NSW Forestry Corp's offices in Coffs Harbour, to mark World Forests Day, 21<sup>st</sup> March, and to officially revoke the corporation's social licence to continue the destruction of public native forests in New South Wales.



Since the signing of the historic Forests Agreements in 2000, the people of NSW have endured fifteen years of unprecedented, tax-payer subsidised, destruction of biodiversity rich public forests across the state. Now, faced with a “remake” of the approvals that dramatically reduce biodiversity protection, and extend the forest logging agreements indefinitely beyond the original 2021 end date, patience has run out for these campaigners.

A passionate address by the North East Forest Alliance's (NEFA) spokesperson, Susie Russell, spelled out the ecoservice benefits that forests provide to humanity, completely free of charge, including life-giving oxygen and clean water, elements without which humanity could not exist, and the threats they currently face.





An interlude of music and street theatre lightened the mood before returning to the more serious business at hand, with a stirring address by solicitor, NEFA founding member and OAM recipient, John Corkill, who laid bare the appalling record of systematic breaching of regulations that Forestry Corp, in collusion with the supposed regulator, the Environmental Protection Agency, that has occurred over the life of the IFOA, ending with the declaration that Forestry Corp's social licence has now been **REVOKED**.

The full revocation of social licence can be read on the following page, but some of the more significant failings by NSW Forestry Corp include:

- **Serious damage to intact catchments, and ongoing pollution of watercourses, with destruction of in-stream aquatic environments by logging, thus compromising, the integrity of stream bank filter strips, lowering water quality and reducing long term water yields;**
- **Multiple breaches of specific conditions on logging designed to protect threatened fauna and flora, and their core habitats, resulting in harm to threatened species;**
- **Routine failure, inability or unwillingness to search for, identify and protect the habitat of threatened species of fauna and flora present in an area when planning logging;**
- **Chronic and ongoing failure to correctly identify and adequately protect habitat trees and their replacement recruitment habitat trees;**
- **False, deceptive and misleading characterisation of broad-scale clear-felling of areas up to 110 hectares, and its impacts, as so-called “Single Tree Selection – Heavy”;**
- **Introducing weeds including lantana and allowing their spread across the forest estate, recklessly permitting wide-spread forest dieback and overall decline in forest health;**
- **Demonstrated inability of FCNSW to supervise logging operations to ensure compliance with environmental protection conditions and,**
- **Failure to be publicly accountable for grossly mis-managing public native forests.**

Our thanks to those who organised, and everyone who supported the day of action, including the media.

John Edwards  
Clarence Environment Centre

# NORTH EAST FOREST ALLIANCE

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International Forests Day 21 March 2016

Attention:

**NSW Forestry Corporation (native forests division)  
Environment Protection Authority (Forestry Unit)**

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## **NOTICE of REVOCATION of SOCIAL LICENCE to log, road and burn; to kill and pollute in the publicly owned native forests of north-east NSW**

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**TAKE HEED THAT: The social licence granted to you by the residents of the north east New South Wales is REVOKED, effective immediately. The reasons for revocation are:**

**Failure to comply with environmental protection conditions, during logging operations, road works and burn-offs resulting in serious harm to the environment.**

- 1. Ongoing failure to implement minimum standards of sediment control and soil erosion mitigation on logging tracks, roads and creek crossings;**
- 2. Serious damage to intact catchments, ongoing pollution of watercourses, destruction of in-stream aquatic environments, logging, thus compromising, the integrity of streambank filter strips, lowering water quality and reducing long term water yields;**
- 3. Multiple breaches of specific conditions on logging designed to protect Threatened fauna and flora, and their core habitat, resulting in harm to Threatened species;**
- 4. Routine failure, inability or unwillingness to search for, identify and protect the habitat of Threatened Species of fauna and flora present in an area when planning logging, by creating logging exclusion areas and applying appropriate conditions on logging to protect known Threatened species e.g. koalas, and their habitat in Harvesting Plans;**
- 5. Chronic and ongoing failure to correctly identify and adequately protect Habitat Trees and their replacement Recruitment Habitat Trees, in areas planned for logging;**
- 6. False, deceptive and misleading characterisation of broad-scale clear-felling of areas up to 110 hectares, and its impacts, as so-called “Single Tree Selection – Heavy”;**
- 7. Excessive and negligent use of fire and post logging burns creating harm to the environment;**
- 8. Introducing weeds including lantana and allowing their spread across the forest estate, recklessly permitting wide-spread forest dieback and overall decline in forest health;**
- 9. Failure to undertake assessments of adverse environmental impacts after logging, road works or burning, or adequately address, or effectively mitigate these impacts;**
- 10. Demonstrated inability of FCNSW to supervise logging operations to ensure logging industry workers’ compliance with applicable environmental protection conditions;**
- 11. Inadequate and ineffective enforcement by EPA FU of compliance by logging industry workers and Forestry Corporation staff, with environment protection conditions;**
- 12. Failure to be publicly accountable for grossly mis-managing public native forests.**

**You are required to ‘show cause’ publicly why all logging, roadworks & burning in publicly owned native forests in north-east NSW should not cease forthwith.**

**BY ORDER: *JR Corkill* OAM  
*People’s Commissioner for Forests***