

Untitled

Dear Ms. Pavey.

I am writing to say that I found your article in the SMH Mon.05/02 very interesting and insightful.

In the 1960's I was a senior employee with what was then, the largest hardwood sawmilling organisation in NSW with operational head quarters in Coffs Harbour. This firm, Allen Taylor & Co., alongside all the other smaller sawmillers extracted hardwood mill logs from nearly the total length of the NSW coastal strip working closely with Forestry Commission NSW on a sustainable resource outcome.

For its part, the Commission maintained the forest access roads to a high standard, carried out regular fire prevention measures and created wildlife corridors.

Come 1982 and the advent of the Wran government declaration of parks, followed on by the Carr government locking up vast tracts of what had been State Forest under the various acts led to a complete closure of roads, denial of public access and the overgrowth by lantana and other weed species.

Where once was an almost park like State forest, in many places with cattle grazing under license, the replacement over time was an absolute jungle with a subsequent fire risk impossible to control.

It is this scenario which places so much of the remaining wildlife at risk, in a fire situation the koala population has no chance of survival living as it does in the tree canopy region.

It is interesting that I am actively encouraged to have complete freedom of access to a State Forest, that for \$27.50 purchase an annual fossicking or firewood permit, yet alongside may be a National Park where should I wish to access will be by walking only (if I can battle through the undergrowth) with no other recreational activity allowed.

These departments should be working alongside each other, not competing, and it is long past time that a total re evaluation of the NP philosophy was undertaken in regard to public access and activity.

With Kind Regards.

M H

napfa Member