



Lane Cove Bushland & Conservation Society Inc

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Integrated Forestry Operations Approval (IFOA)

To Whom It May Concern,

As the Secretary of the Lane Cove Bushland & Conservation Society (LCB&CS) I would like to register my strong opposition to the Government's proposed changes to the Integrated Forestry Operations Approval (IFOA).

The LCB&CS is a local environmental group which has been in existence since 1971 (46 years) and has been a strong advocate for the environment and conservation at all levels of Government – local state and federal – for the whole of that period.

The proposed changes to Integrated Forestry Operations Approval removes existing protections of ecologically sustainable forest management (ESFM) by proposing the clear-felling of 140,000 hectares of coastal forests between Grafton and Taree; 'remapping and rezoning' old-growth for logging; reducing headwater stream buffers; permitting the logging of giant trees and approximately doubling the intensity of logging in the 'selective harvesting zone'.

The new IFOA will increase the impacts of logging on threatened species, such as the loss of hollow-bearing trees and bell-miner associated dieback. The intensive harvesting zone will destroy almost half of the mapped high-quality koala habitat in state forests.

The best use of forests is to protect the wildlife that we value and that the tourism industry depends upon; protect the water supplies that our communities rely on and store the carbon that is driving climate breakdown. Polling in the electorates of Ballina and Lismore show that 90% of people agree. Yet the new IFOA directly undermines all of these imperatives, just to meet unrealistic wood supplies for a few short years.

Destroying what is left of the ecological values of state forests and logging protected areas to meet wood supply is not the action of a responsible Government.

One of the recommendations in Ewan Waller's report into the RFA consultation was that the Government conduct a review of the logging industry considering climate change, conservation, socio-economic issues and support for the logging industry. The Lane Cove Bushland & Conservation Society strongly support these recommendations.

I urge you to abandon the IFOA, and instead use the end of the Regional Forest Agreements to transition out of native forest logging on public land and implement positive alternatives like National Park Association's [Great Koala National Park](#) and [Forests For All](#) proposals.

Yours sincerely,

Matthew Fisher

Secretary, Lane Cove Bushland & Conservation Society