

**Arguments presented to Minister Walsh and Advisors at a ‘round table’ meeting,  
August 26, 2014.**

1. For the last 6 months our community group has been engaging with locals, the media, politicians – anyone that will listen and we’ve received a lot of support. Earlier this year the Strathbogie Memorial Hall was packed-out by people that came to express their concern.
2. There is a very strong grassroots feeling that the little bit of State Forest that still survives in the Ranges will soon be turned into woodchips and a few low-grade logs.
3. This forest, what’s left of it, has been logged for 100+ years and it shows – there’s little mill-able timber left and in fact there wasn’t ever very much. So it seems pretty clear that woodchips and firewood, the lowest value forest products on the market, are what VicForests are after.
4. On the other hand the forest enjoys great popularity among outdoor, education & recreation users, beekeepers, bushwalkers etc, not to mention that it’s an important part of the watershed for the Upper Goulburn River, the Broken River and the Lower Goulburn.
5. The remaining forests also have a long list of biodiversity values that have all but disappeared in the rest of the Strathbogie Ranges.
6. So it’s unacceptable that recent logging in this forest, using inappropriate silviculture methods, has turned into a financial and ecological disaster that outweighs any monetary profit from the logging operation.
7. We’re not actually opposed to logging, but the methods used by VF (essentially clear-felling; seed tree treatment) are unsuited to this mixed-species forest.
8. There seem to be good reasons to review how this State Forest is managed and no good reason to continue business-as-usual.
9. Local communities are calling for the Strathbogie State Forest to be removed from the Timber Release Plan, or otherwise provide for a moratorium on timber harvesting in this forest. There has been no assessment of land-use or forest values in the Strathbogie Ranges for 30+ years in which time much has changed.
10. We think its high time for a review and we are now campaigning for a VEAC investigation into land-use in the Ranges, so that land-use planning can be undertaken from an informed position.

Strathbogie Sustainable Forestry Alliance.

<http://strathbogiesustainableforests.wordpress.com/>

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