



**The Campaign to Protect the
Strathbogie Forest
2013 - 2020**

Our Strathbogie Forest

The Strathbogie Forest and surrounding landscape is part of the traditional lands of a number of Traditional Owners - the Taungurung, Yorta Yorta, and Bangerang people. I wish to acknowledge all Traditional Owners as custodians of this land.

The Strathbogie Ranges in northeast Victoria cover an area of about 240,000 ha and are separated from the main Great Dividing Range by the Goulburn and Broken Rivers. The ranges' geology and topography, together with their proximity to semi-arid, inland Australia, have combined to developed a unique combination of landforms and a characteristic biota that is notably different to the adjacent ranges to the east and south.

In the last 150 years, the Strathbogie Ranges have lost 74% of their native forest cover and a number of vertebrate species are known to have become extinct. The Strathbogie Forest represents the only secure habitat in the entire Strathbogie Ranges for the long-term survival of hundreds, perhaps thousands of forest-dependent species. Principle among these is the Greater Glider (*Petauroides volans*), which is listed under Australian and Victorian threatened species legislation. The Strathbogie Forest has one of the healthiest Greater Glider populations remaining in Victoria, deemed to be of Regional, if not State significance.

Though modest in size, the statewide significance of this forest is now beyond argument. Its protection in a conservation reserve is urgently required for meeting National Reserve System targets, Victorian Government protection commitments and for the survival of iconic national and state endangered fauna species.

These images are collated here as a pictorial record of the campaign to protect the Strathbogie Forest, 2013-2020.

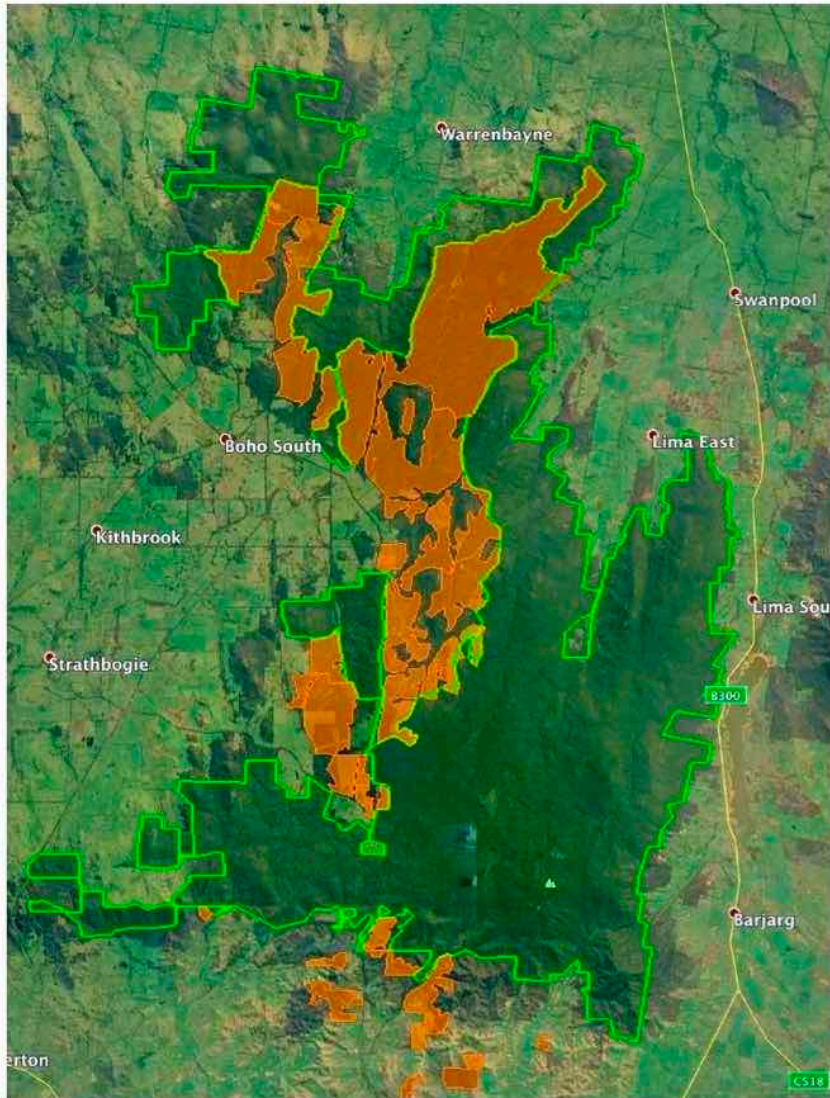
Bertram Lobert, Boho South, 25 November 2020.

Front cover: The Strathbogie Forest, view south from Rocky Ned Lookout.

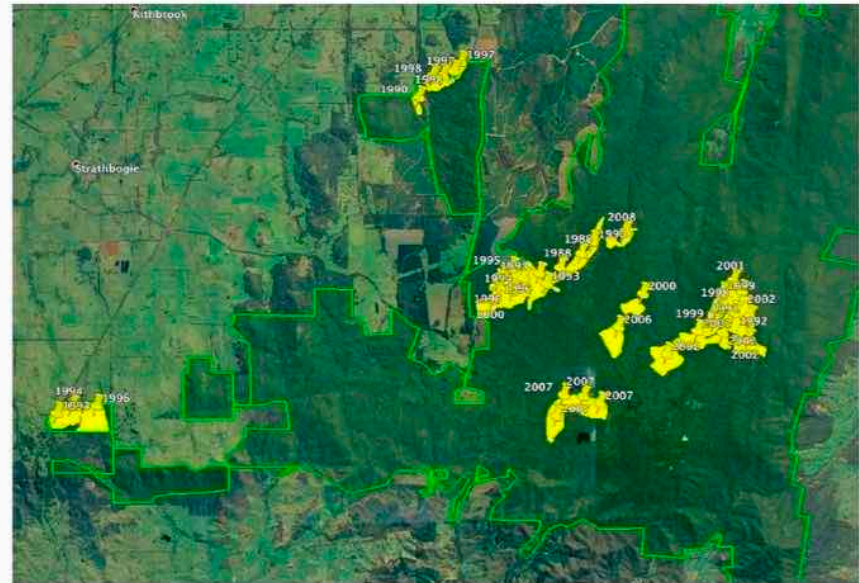
Back cover: "An example of over-ringing The Tableland", view from Major's Hill, Strathbogie township in foreground ca. 1900 (A.W.R. Vroland & J.R. Donald, 1906 - <https://ehive.com/collections/6420/objects/752873/notes-on-strathbogie>).



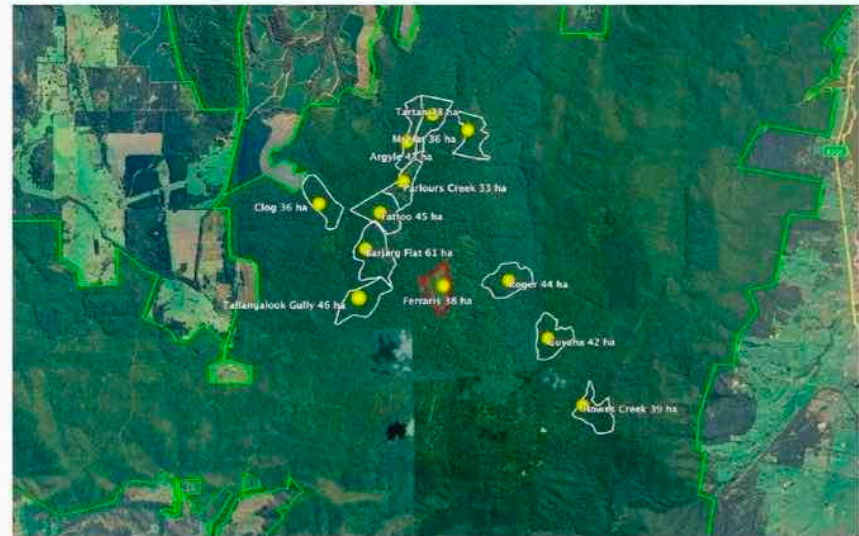
The failed Ferraris coupe, clear-felled in 2006 and still not regenerated in 2013. This coupe was one of the reasons the community began campaigning for better management of the Strathbogie Forest. Another reason for the increasing community concern, was Vicforests planned increase in logging intensity between 2013-2016 (maps following page).



Strathbogie Forest 24,000 ha
Public land - green; pine plantations - orange



Logging history is incompletely mapped, here showing what has been migrated to GIS (1993-2006)



Proposed logging 2013-2016 - 450 ha

Vicforests logging was beginning to have a devastating impact on our native forest. Several clear-felled coupes showed near total regeneration failure.



Local business, Murphy's Tomatoes, was chipping Tolmie forests to heat their greenhouses - would the Strathbogrie Forest be next?





Tolmie logs in a Mansfield firewood yard



Tolmie native forest turned into firewood



Tolmie logs at Murphy's, ready for chipping



Tolmie Native forest logs and chips



Doug Vance



Lindsay Hesketh



Sim Ayres

Full-house community meeting,
Strathbogie Hall, 24th February, 2014.

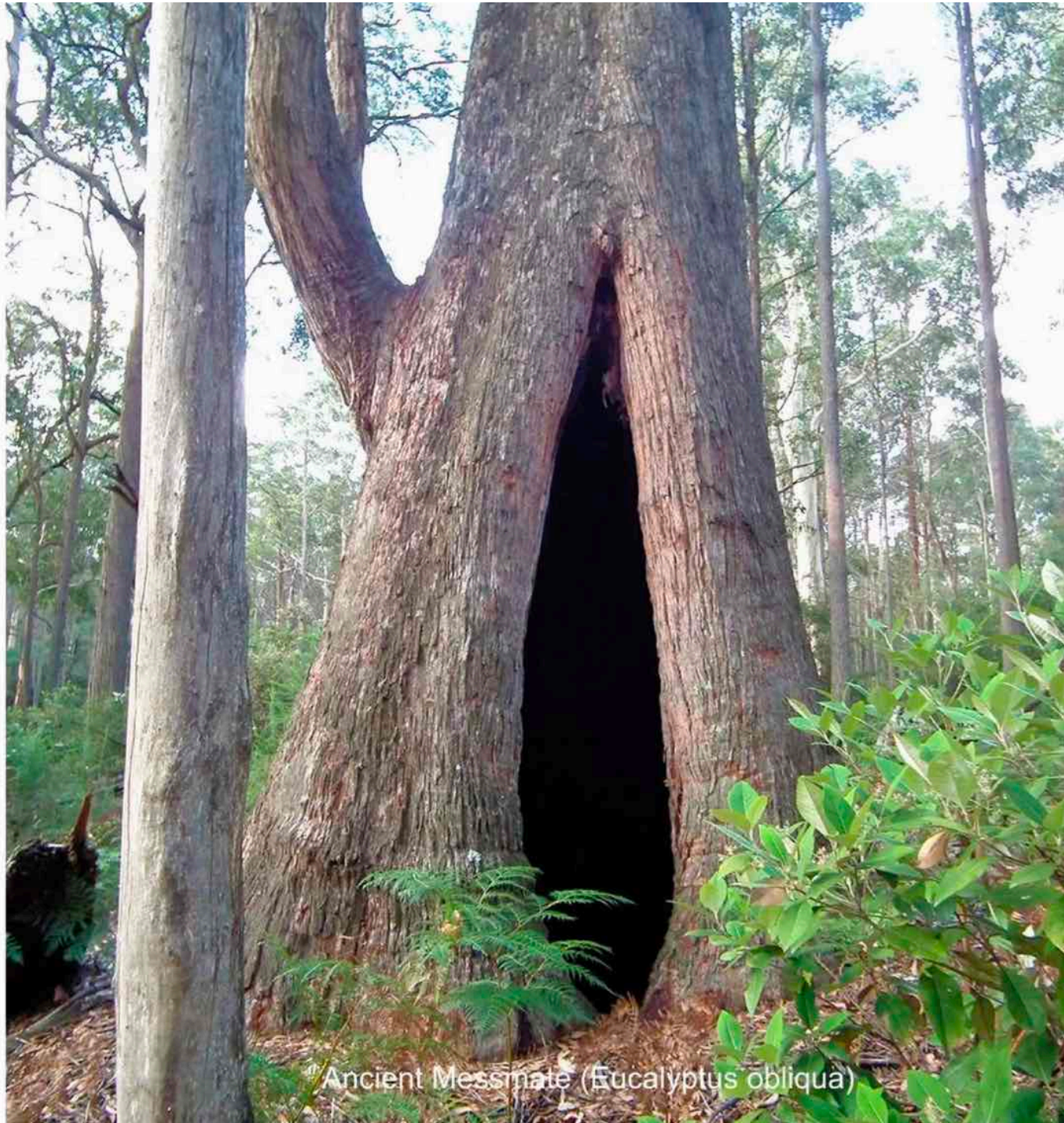
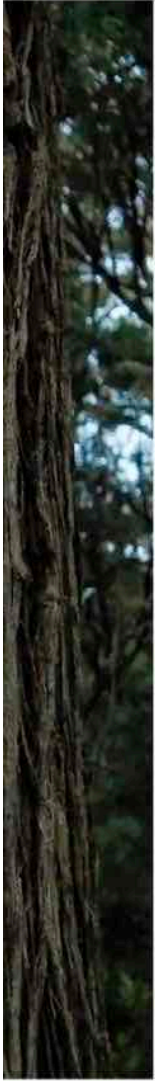




Poorly managed regeneration; this coupe was logged in 1998



Planned burning - another threat to forest



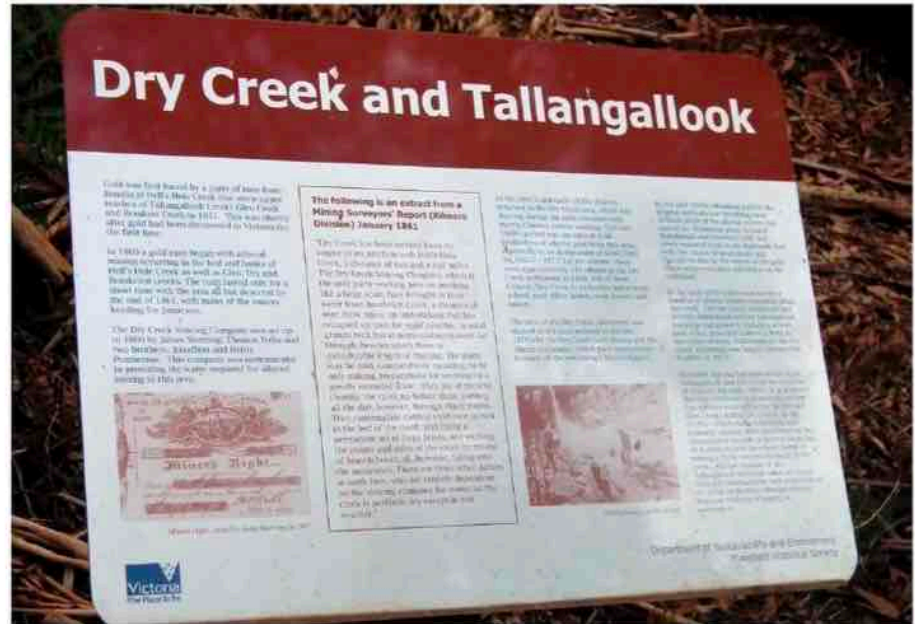
Ancient Messmate (*Eucalyptus obliqua*)



Strathbogie Forest Gold Mining History

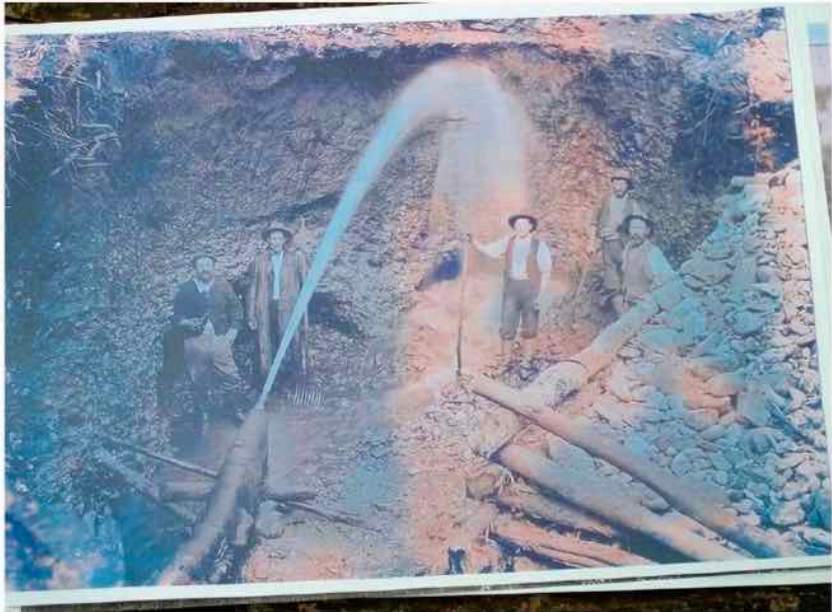


Hell's Hole Creek





Historic photos on display boards





Sandy Creek Falls community walk, June 2014



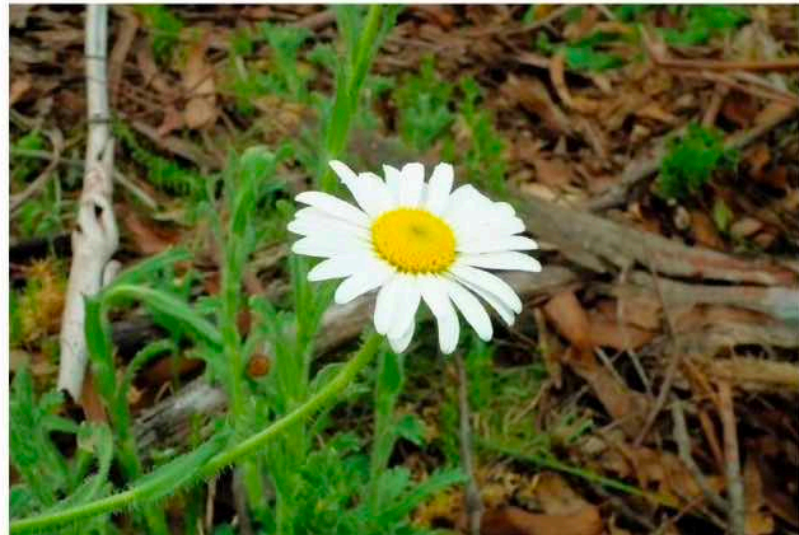


Beef-steak Fungus (*Fistulina hepatica*)





Local Member, Steph Ryan MLA, with Michael and Sim, July 2014



Tall Daisy (*Brachyscome diversifolia*)



The Paps from Golden Mountain



Snow Gum (*Eucalyptus pauciflora*)



Bird orchid (*Cheiloglottis* sp)



Showy Violet (*Viola betonicifolia*)



Ferraris coupe: Vicforests have turned native forest into a hardwood plantation in the middle of the Strathbogie Forest.

Strathbogie Forest mothing with Steve Williams, November 2014.



Black & White Tiger Moth (*Spilosoma glatignyi*)



Helena Gum Moth (*Opodiphthera helena*)

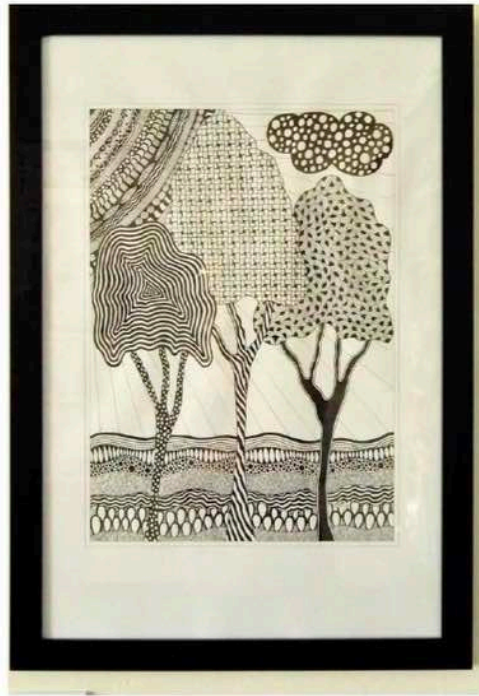
Exquisite detail - moths are important ecosystem engineers, decomposing elevated fine fuels and leaf litter.



Iropoca Moth (*Iropoca rotundata*)



The end of a night's mothing



Longwood Primary School student entries in the Wild Strathbogie Art Festival, November 2014





Liberal candidate Tony Schneider promises VEAC investigation, if they win the Victorian election.



The 2014 election saw an unsuccessful local campaign to make the seat of Euroa marginal.



Tony Schneider and Environment minister Ryan Smith, with Sim Ayres at Ferraris coupe.





Vicforests schmoozing, Ferraris coupe, Feb. 2015





Burnt fern gullies

Tames Rd planned burn: way too hot - initial inspection March 2015



Significant crown scorch



Koalas killed

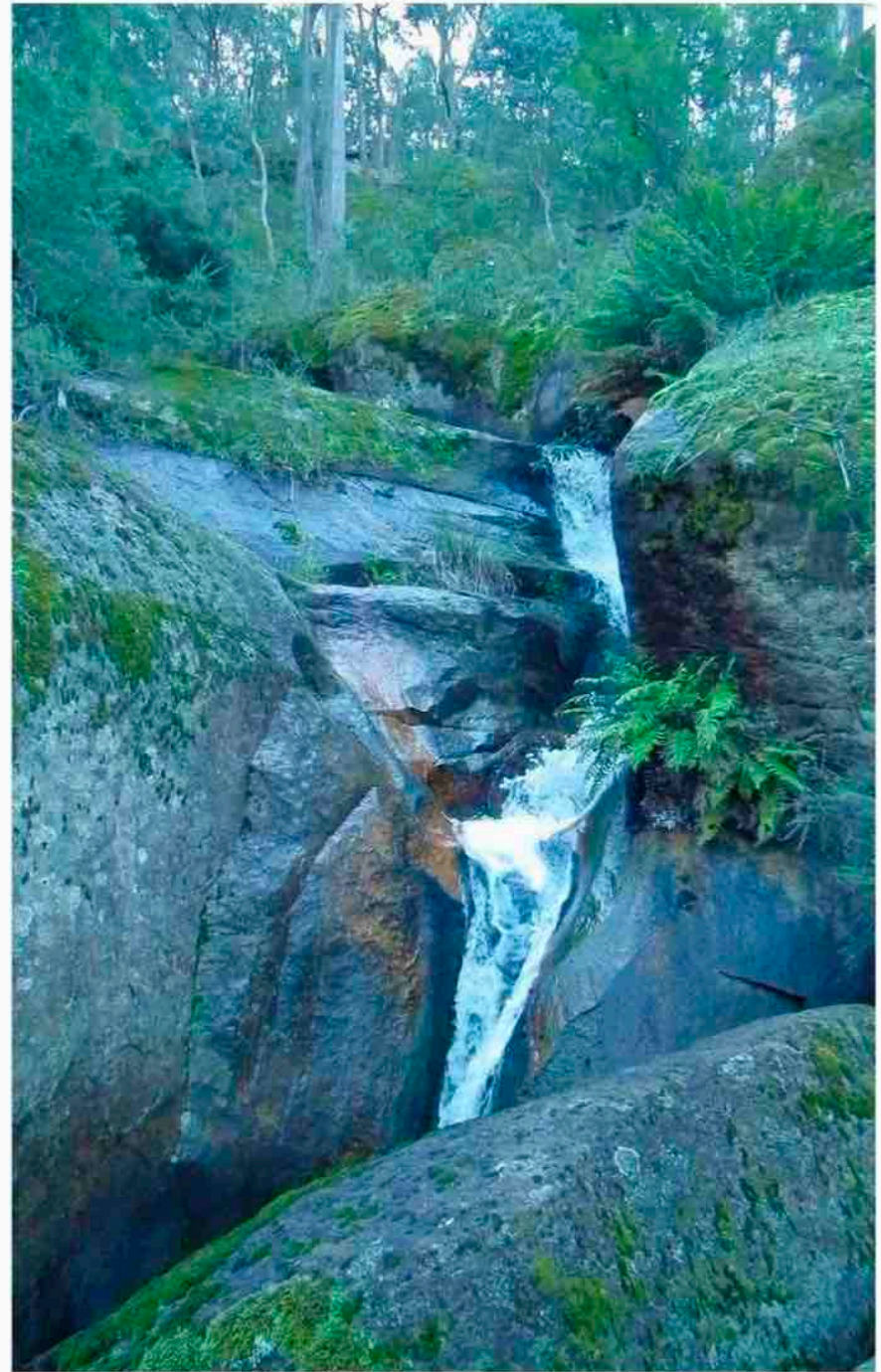


The Tames Rd planned burn killed large numbers of old growth trees





Rocky Ned Falls May 2015

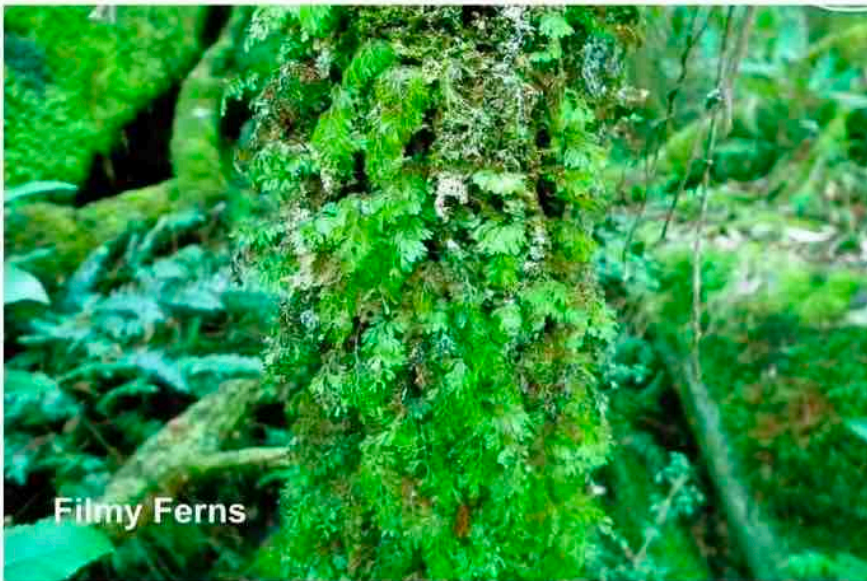




Giant tree ferns



Rocky Ned Falls May 2015



Filmy Ferns



Rocky Ned Falls May 2015



The last cascade flanked by tree ferns



Community meeting, Old Flour Mill, October 2015



The team



The damage

Tames Rd planned burn impact assessment, November - December 2015



The data





Tames Rd planned burn impact assessment, November - December 2015





A centuries-old Victorian Blue Gum (*E. bicostata*) felled by the James Rd planned burn

TAMES ROAD PLANNED BURN - IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Strathbogrie Sustainable Forests Group - January 2016

Summary

Recent planned burns in Strathbogrie forests have been disastrous for the health of the forest and its resident fauna. A significant proportion of the old-growth elements in the forest that have survived 150+ years of logging and fires, have been destroyed by a recent planned burn. Planned burning of the sort and at the scale undertaken by DELWP in Strathbogrie forests must stop immediately and a more informed approach to bushfire mitigation needs to be developed, particularly in light of the shift to a risk-based approach to fire risk in the State.



Old-growth trees killed by the planned burn - how old was t

Background

On 28 March 2015, Dept. Environment, Water & Planning (DELWP) inspected a section of forest in the Strathbogrie Ranges, known as the Tames Road burn, at the request of a neighbouring landholder that knew the Strathbogrie Sustainable Forests Group (SSFG) inspected parts of the perimeter. From that inspection it was clear that at least some part of the forest had been severely scorched by a high intensity fire that severely scorched large areas of the tree canopy and understorey vegetation to mineral earth and killed a number of trees in the forest.

Subsequent inspection of another part of the planned burn suggests this burn may have been more widespread than initially thought.



The full report: <https://strathbogriesustainableforests.wordpress.com/2016/01/29/planned-burning-decimates-big-trees-strathbogrie-forest/>

Discussion

The impact of this 'successful' (according to DELWP's assessment) planned burn on stags and trees in the survey area was devastating. It's the impact on the stags and larger trees in the forest that gives most concern. Many parts of the burn area carried barely a trickling fire, yet this was enough to fell some of the largest and oldest trees in the forest. Our survey results show that:

- **Half (51%) of all stags (≥ 70 cm DBH) in areas affected by the burn, were destroyed by the burn.**
- **Almost half, 47%, of the largest trees in the forest (≥ 100 cm DBH) in areas affected by the burn, were killed by the burn.**
- **The four biggest trees in the survey area, by a considerable margin (between 1.5m and 1.9 m DBH), were all killed and felled by the planned burn.**

Extrapolation of these results beyond the survey area suggests that this planned burn has seriously degraded the ecological condition and resilience of this forest and that the overall bushfire mitigation strategy is

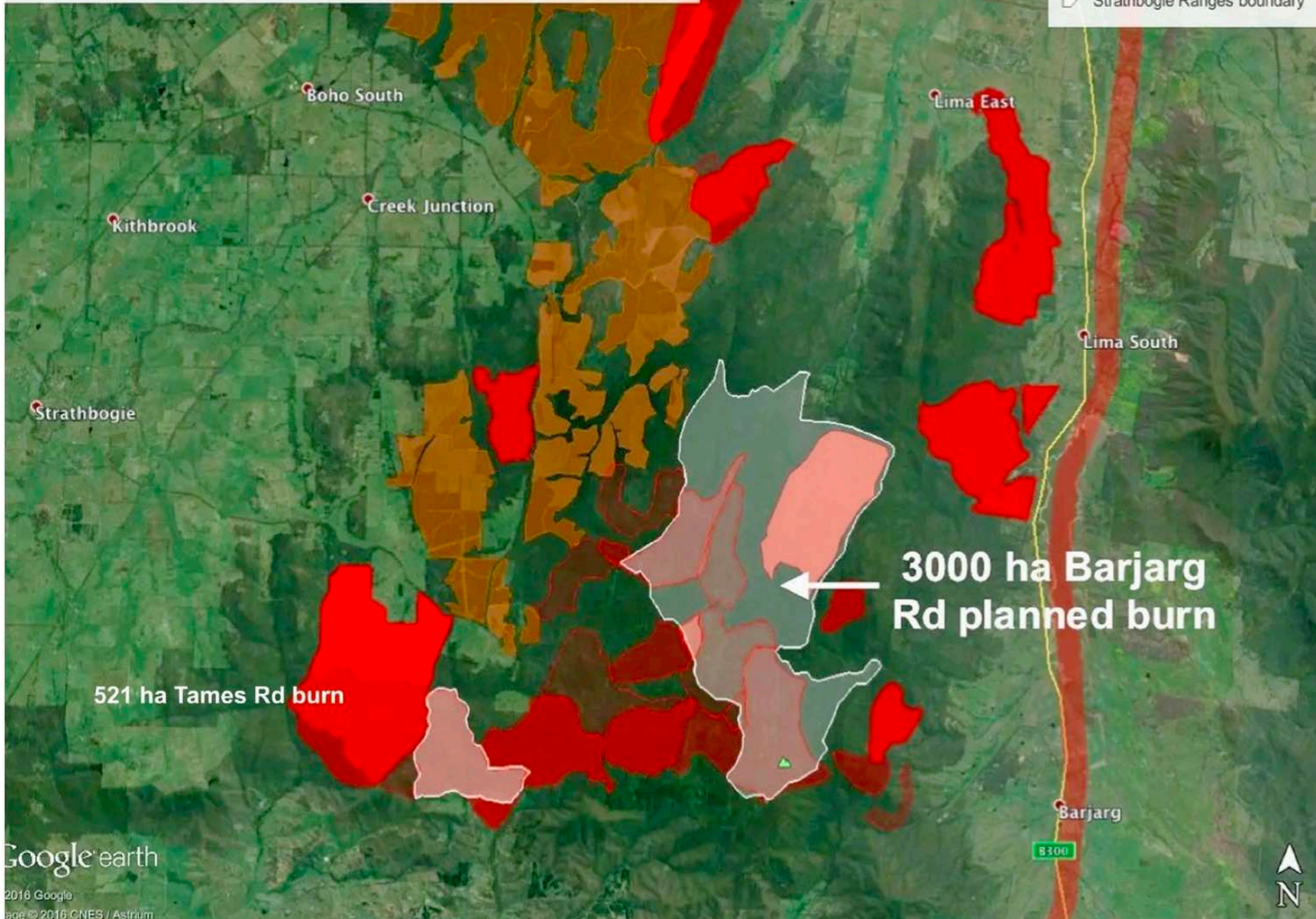


Listed species like the Powerful Owl still survive in the Strathbogrie forest and require very large, old trees for nesting. Image D. Fraser.

Burns planned for Autumn 2016, Strathbogie Ranges.

Legend

- ▲ Mount Strathbogie
- Strathbogie Ranges boundary





Mt Strathbogie community walk, February 2016





Ancient Mountain Gums (*E. dalrympleana*)





Planned burn media with WIN TV and ABC Radio's Warwick Long, March 2016



Howe's Mill Tk



Parlours Creek walk, March 2016



Impact of logging on carbon stocks, Strathbogie Forest - report 2016

https://strathbogiesustainableforests.files.wordpress.com/2020/12/20160224_carbon-stocks-in-the-strathbogie-ranges_clean_160316.pdf



Carbon Stocks in the Strathbogie Ranges

An assessment of carbon stocks in the Strathbogie Ranges and the potential carbon emissions as a result of harvesting trees in the area for wood products



Lawrence Rimmer
14 January 2016

4 Summary

An emissions assessment has been conducted for planned harvest and burning activities in the Strathbogie Ranges. A summary of emissions is presented in [Table 1](#). The analysis includes an assessment of emissions from decaying debris and wood products created as a direct result of the harvest. This summary assumes only one harvest occurs. A comparative scenario has been presented in section [10.3](#) to model harvest events every 40 years.

An analysis of vegetation regrowth after a harvest event is also included. Although models indicate significant carbon gains from tree growth over 100 years, successful regeneration is not a given, as explained in section [10.1.1](#) of this report.

When a harvest emission occurs and when the carbon can [sequestered](#) back in to the vegetation is also an important factor to consider. This is explored in section [10.3](#).

[Table 1](#) Summary of emissions from burning and harvesting activities in the Strathbogie Ranges

5 Cause of emissions	6 Emissions in 2016 tCO ₂ e	7 Emissions between 2017 and 2118 tCO ₂ e	
Burning vegetation	42,838	76,537*	
Immediate vegetation loss due to harvest	87,410	0	
Decay of debris as a result of harvest	0	149,552	
Decay of wood products created from harvesting	0	120,879	
Carbon decay in soil	0	18,542	
Sub total	130,248	365,510	
TOTAL		495,758	Equivalent to the annual emissions of 256,870 cars*
Sequestration from vegetation regrowth re-seeding ⁵		490,105	

* Burning activities expected to be conducted in 2017 and 2018.

⁵ Assuming no future harvest events and no natural disturbances

Euroa Gazette, Wednesday April 13, 2016



FIREFIGHTERS FOR FORESTS: A group of concerned volunteer firefighters recently formed to take action with prescribed burns in the Strathbogie State Forest. Firefighters 4 Forests members (pictured) are advocating for cool, slow burns.

Water supply, wildlife concerning new group

By TARA WHITSED

A GROUP has recently formed in the wake of concerns regarding prescribed burning in the Strathbogie State Forest by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP).

Group spokesperson Andrew Townsend said Firefighters 4 Forests formed when a number of volunteer firefighters got together and thought they'd do something

regarding the burns.

"We're not against prescribed burning," he said.

"Just don't be in such a hurry to burn the whole lot in such a short amount of time."

He said that the group would like to see cool burning in the Strathbogies; after the recent dry summer and only just having five millimetres of rainfall in recent weeks.

"When we have some decent

rain they can conduct small cool burns," he said.

He said that the group's main concerns were to do with the water supply that runs off the Strathbogies as well as displaced wildlife that would merge onto farmland.

"What we would like to see targeted is displaced wildlife," he said.

Andrew said that the group, who met on Sunday last week,

shared around a combined 600 years' experience; Andrew alone said he had fought fires since he was 16 years old.

"I've been a firefighter in Victoria for the last 20 years," he said.

Andrew said that as firefighters, members of the group did care about the safety of the Strathbogies.

"We really are working toward the same goal; to have a safe and secure environment," he said.

Local volunteer firefighters supporting the forest.



Firefighters for Forests, April 2016





Meeting at The Messmates picnic area, April 2016





...and after the meeting, a walk to Howes Mill Tk





Mountain Gum felled by a storm

Mountain Gums, Ferraris Rd, April 2016



Assessment of old-growth trees



Parlour's Creek coupe logging, proposed Barjarg Rd planned burn, the disastrous Tames Rd burn and collaboration with apiarists - it was all happening in 2016!

Assessment of significant biodiversity values in Parlours coupe, Strathbogie Ranges

13th September 2016

Strathbogie Sustainable Forests Group

Summary

- The Parlours coupe contains a number of high conservation values, none of which have been adequately considered in the pre-logging planning. Greater Gliders and Powerful Owls both occur in the coupe and the forest itself complies with the DELWP/VicForests definition of High Conservation Value forest.
- VicForests have conducted no on-ground fauna surveys for the above values, yet intend to log the coupe as early as the 19th September 2016 (6 days hence).
- The Planning Standards (DSE 2014) for the North East FMA are out-of-date and seriously inadequate. They make no mention whatsoever of the Greater Glider, which is now listed as threatened in Victoria and under the EPBC Act.
- Greater Glider densities in Parlours coupe are as high as 11.7/km transect.
- These densities are high enough to be regarded as ecologically significant in the East Gippsland FMA and elicit special protection from logging (DSE 2014).
- During three formal visits to the coupe and its immediate environs over the last two years, the Powerful Owl has been recorded on two occasions. The Parlours Creek catchment, including the coupe area is clearly part of a resident owls' regular home range. The appropriate SPZ should be investigated and declared.
- There is concern that, although Powerful Owls are considered in the Planning Standards, the POMA 'strategy' has not been reviewed for some years and that areas set aside for Powerful Owls in the North East may not provide the level of protection intended.
- We urgently recommend that a moratorium be placed on all planned logging in the Strathbogie Ranges until there has been a comprehensive ecological assessment.

Location

Parlour's coupe (412-504-0001) lies in the catchment of Parlours Ck/Sugarloaf Ck, a tributary of Moonee Moonee Ck and the Broken River. The coupe is bounded by Lima East Rd, Howes Mill Tr, Parlour's Tr and Parlour's Ck.



Burns 'ignite' concern

A NUMBER of planned burns for the Strathbogie State Forest by the Department of Environment, Land Water and Planning (DELWP) are causing concern among local groups.

DELWP's acting assistant chief fire officer for the Hume region, Tony Long, said a number of burns are planned for the Strathbogie State Forest with the largest being the Strathbogie-Barjarg Road, which was 2992 hectares in size.

Mr Long said the burns were a key aspect of fire management on public land. "Burns planned in the Strathbogie State Forest will reduce the spread and severity of bushfires through the Strathbogie State Forest and provide protection to

Community groups' plea to halt 3000ha state forest fire



BY LARA WHITSEO
VicForests representative

properties, the environment and other important assets," he said.

But Euroa Environmental Group president Shirley Saywell wrote in a letter to the editor recently that the group would be doing all it could to halt the scheduled burns. "We have called on the Premier and the Environment Minister to call off the 3000 hectare burn which will see a large swathe of forest torched simply to meet an out of date government policy," she wrote.

She said the policy was irresponsible and had recently been replaced with a more strategic approach, but this did not come into effect until next season.

"We are not opposed to strategic, well managed cool burns, based on sound science and real risk minimisation principles," Mr Saywell said.

Strathbogie resident and member of the Strathbogie Sustainable Forests Group, Mark Tame, called on Mr Long to defer all burning activities for three weeks in the name of public safety through a letter to the editor.

"The Strathbogie forest is a working forest," he wrote. "This means, among

other things, it is popular for recreational activities such as hunting, bushwalking, bird watching, motorcycle riding, horse riding, four wheel driving and camping.

"It is very likely there will be people in the Strathbogie forest where the burn is to take place while DELWP is in the process of actually lighting the fires."

Mr Long, however, said that in the lead up to igniting a burn further engagement is undertaken with stakeholders and the broader community.

"Planned burns are nominated from a variety of sources, including the community and are included in DELWP's three year fire operations plan," he said.

"The plan details where we plan to burn over the next three years."

Mr Long acknowledged that there had been a number of people who expressed concerns regarding some aspects of planned burns in the Strathbogie State Forest.

"DELWP has been in ongoing consultation with the local community about burning, and will continue to work together to reduce the impact of the future bushfires on people, property and environment," he said.

Mr Tame, however, said it would appear there had been no consultation regarding the environmental conditions of the area to be burnt.

Continued page 9

This hollow old Victorian Rue Gum was one of many killed by the March 2015 fuel reduction burn in the Strathbogies.

Planned burn disaster

BERTRAM LOBERT FROM THE STRATHBOGIE SUSTAINABLE FORESTS GROUP SAYS THE GROUP IS CALLING FOR AN END TO LARGE-SCALE FUEL REDUCTION BURNING IN THE STRATHBOGIES.

A significant proportion of the old-growth elements in part of the Strathbogie State Forest that have survived 150+ years of logging and fires have been destroyed by a recent (March 2015) planned burn.

It is clear that at least some parts of the 520ha burn area experienced a high intensity fire that severely scorched large parts of the tree canopy, incinerated areas of understorey vegetation to mineral earth and killed a number of the last large, mature trees in parts of the forest.

The Strathbogie State Forest is home to a number of forest-dependent species that are vulnerable to the impact of planned burns: the Powerful Owl,

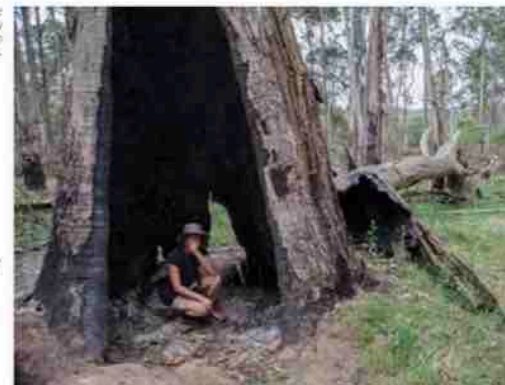


PHOTO: MURRAY TRAY

evidence for the impact of planned burns, the Strathbogie Sustainable Forests Group (SSFG) undertook detailed on-ground surveys to quantify the impact of the 2015 burn on the health and survival of trees, to encourage informed decision-making.

Impact on hollow-bearing trees

A total of 273 trees with a diameter of 70 cm or more were measured and assessed for planned burn impact. They were Narrow-leaf Peppermints,

These results call into serious question DELWP's program of planned burning in the Strathbogie forests. The level of tree death and loss of hollow-bearing trees is completely unacceptable and flies in the face of threatening processes listed under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act.

To continue with the scheduled program of planned burns would be ecologically irresponsible and most probably not necessary, given the government's shift to a risk-based planned burning target.

Whilst the burn killed/felled many more

Logging postponed in Strathbogie forest, for now

Nov 2, 2016

By WILL MURRAY

WHILE many of the shire's residents have been growing weary of the cold and wet conditions during the winter/spring period, local environmental groups are lauding the shire's ability to prevent VicForest from commencing logging operations in the Strathbogie forest.

VicForests had planned on selectively logging around 27 hectares of the Strathbogie forest back in mid-September, however, acting chief executive officer Nathan Trushell said the significant rain for the past four to six weeks had forced them to postpone.

While operations have been halted for now, the state-owned timber company will recommence its work as soon as the weather permits so as to 'fulfil its contractual obligations'.

However, as Mr Trushell acknowledged, exactly when that will be has not been decided.

"There is no future date for commencing operations at this stage but we plan on contacting the community with this information as soon as we know more details," he said.

Strathbogie Sustainable Forests and the Euroa Environmental Group said in a joint statement that VF's past communications with the community

to-be-logged coupe, a method that outrages both groups.

"VicForests acknowledges that there were concerns raised by some community members during September about the way information was provided regarding the previous planned start date for harvesting," Mr Trushell said.

"We apologise for these initial communications and will ensure we notify the community in due course with the confirmed future start date."

Regardless of when the logging operation does begin, SSF and the Euroa Environmental Group have signalled their intentions to not allow them to do so unopposed.

SSF member Bertram Lobert, said they were angered by the fact VicForests had entered into contracts that assumed the availability of the Strathbogie forest for timber while at the same time telling the group they had no plans to do so.

Those opposed to the logging have called for a halt to operations until an assessment is made with regard to the non-timber assets of the forest, including threatened native species such as the Greater Glider, Powerful Owl and Koala.

Mr Lobert argued operations should cease until the results of a study by the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council (VEAC), which



ON NOTICE: The sign nailed to one of the soon-to-be-felled trees in Parlours Coupe, Strathbogie. This form of communication outraged local environmental groups.

looking for native species and their habitat prior to harvesting, including the site in the Strathbogies.

and members of the CFA were involved in a stoush with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and



SUCCESS FOR FORESTS GROUP: The Strathbogrie Sustainable Forest Group has announced that it was successful in negotiating reduced burns for the Strathbogrie State Forest. Sim Ayres is pictured with a Messmate Stringybark, not far from Mt Strathbogrie.

Group approves of plan for upcoming burn in the district

THE Strathbogrie Sustainable Forest Group (SSFG) last week announced it was successful in negotiating a reduced, safer planned burn in the Strathbogrie State Forest.

According to group member Shirley Saywell, the decision came after a delegation representing local community groups met with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) senior regional management, and Country Fire Authority (CFA) regional command and volunteers.

Here, SSFG representative Bert Lobert outlined the community's concerns about the scale and risk of this season's proposed burn.

"Particularly in light of last year's devastating Tames Road planned burn," Ms Saywell said.

Ms Saywell said that DELWP subsequently revised their burn plan for the 3000 hectare Barjarg Road planned burn.

"The SSFG view is that without a doubt, the new fire operations plan for this year's Barjarg Road burn

looks good," she said.

SSFG representative Mr Lobert said the new plan was strategic and it focused on DELWP's high priority fuel reduction areas.

"It attempts to minimise collateral damage like big trees, fire-sensitive habitats and long-unburnt forest," he said.

"Importantly, it will mean that only a fraction of the proposed 3000 hectare burn will actually be burnt this season. "This is a fantastic outcome,"

Spokespeople from the Firefighters for Forests group and the Euroa Environment Group said they were equally as thrilled with the new plan as it showed the DELWP was listening to their concerns.

Both groups saw the need for more targeted burns and were keen to ensure future fire plans were developed with broad community consultation to identify the major risks and the best strategies for dealing with those risks.

SSFG committee member Mark Tame said this positive outcome was a result of a well

organised campaign.

"We thank all those in the community who have contributed their time and expertise and helped to achieve this result," he said.

"We will continue to seek a Victorian Environmental Assessment Council (VEAC) inquiry into the Strathbogrie Forest to ensure future decisions are made taking all forest values into consideration."

Ms Saywell said over the last two years SSFG had conducted many walks through the Strathbogrie Forest and introduced many people in the community to the inspiring and special place.

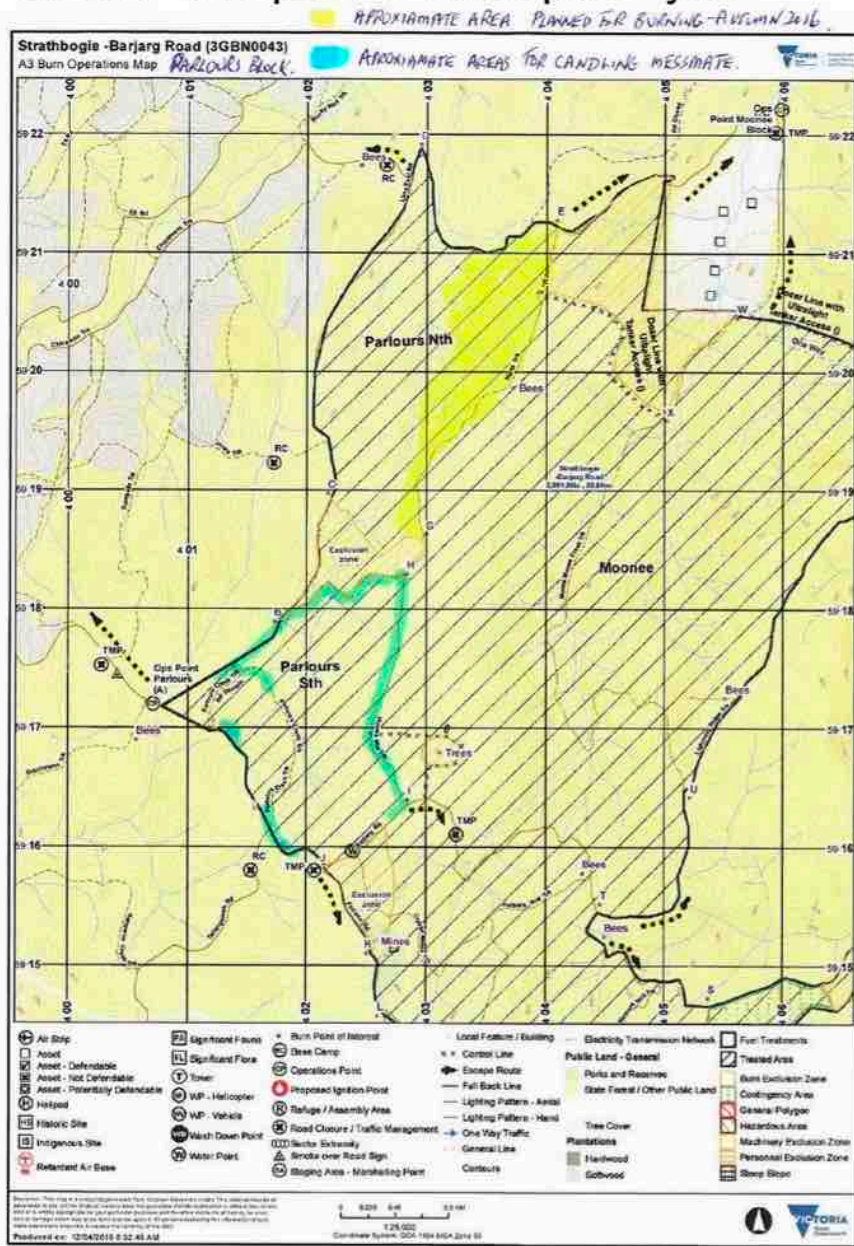
Sim Ayres has led many of these walks.

"Opening people's eyes to this amazing forest, the last large area of forest in the Strathbogries, and its remnant old-growth trees, is absolutely necessary if we want them to keep them healthy and intact for future generations," he said.

"These are wonder-filled places that deserve our admiration, not our fear."

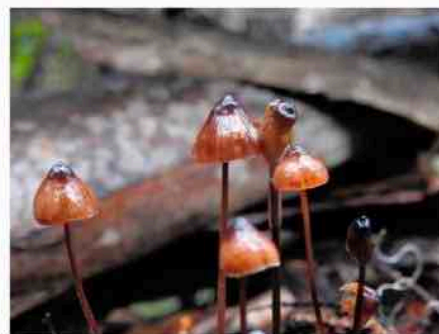
Wed. May 4, 2016.

DELWP compromise burn plan - yes!





Mountain Gums, Ferraris Rd



The forest is about much more than trees - Parlour's Creek fungi workshop, June 2016

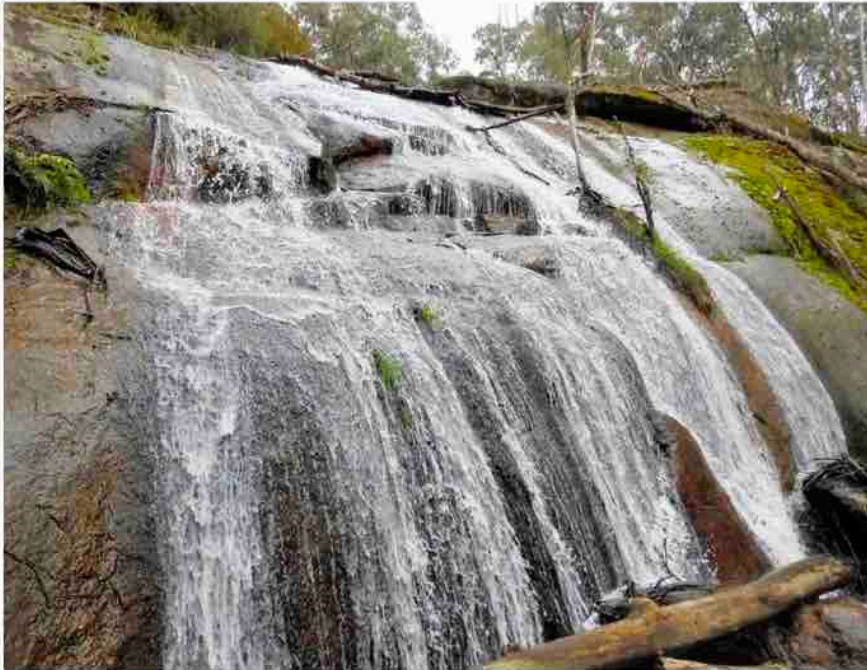


Pixie's Parasol (*Mycena interrupta*)





Lima Falls, September 2016



Purslane and Crassula growing in moss beds





Parlour's Creek picnic, September 2016





Parlour's Creek trail camera surveys, October 2016.



Then the notices appeared ...

SUSTAINABLE FORESTS (TIMBER) ACT 2004

THIS AREA IS A TIMBER HARVESTING SAFETY ZONE

UNAUTHORISED ACCESS TO THIS
ZONE IS PROHIBITED FROM THE
DATE SPECIFIED BELOW AND
OFFENCES AND PENALTIES
APPLY IN THIS ZONE

TIMBER HARVESTING OPERATIONS COMMENCE
ON 5/9/2016

AND APPLY FOR COUPE LOCATION 412-504-0001
AS PUBLISHED AT WWW.VICFORESTS.COM.AU

This notice is made in accordance with section 77C of the Sustainable Forests (Timber) Act 2004. A timber harvesting safety zone applies to a coupe, any road that is within that coupe that has been closed for the purpose of timber harvesting operations and any area of state forest within 150 metres of the boundary of that coupe.



... along with the gates ...

Parlour's Creek logging, November 2016



...and the machinery.



Community protest blocking Lima East Rd.



Harvesting begins in forest

By WILL MURRAY

AFTER a number of delays, and despite the best efforts of local environment groups, VicForests' machinery moved into the Strathbogie Forest last week to commence timber harvesting.

The downpour on Sunday November 13 had put a stop momentarily to the operations scheduled to begin the following day, however, the warmer weather allowed recommencement shortly thereafter, much to the dismay of the Strathbogie Sustainable Forests group.

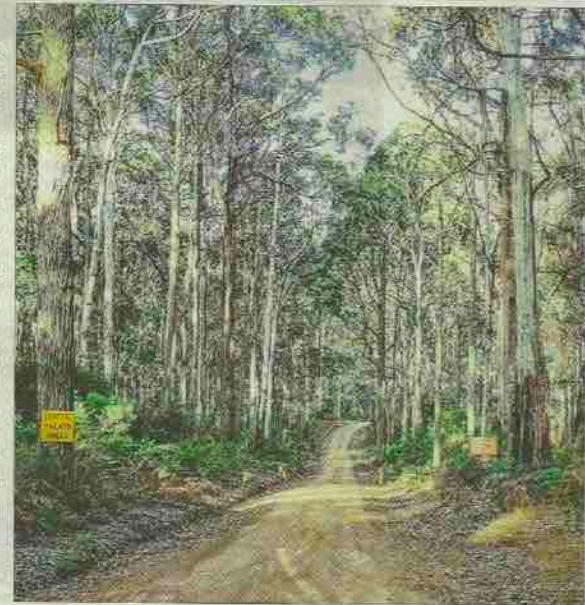
"We are totally frustrated by this action," Bert Lobert, of Strathbogie Sustainable Forests (SSF) told the Gazette.

"Our groups consider the logging a breach of both the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act and statutory forest management guidelines.

"We therefore consider this an illegal operation, and will be considering legal action."

The claims of illegality stem from concerns the Victorian Government's Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) have failed to halt the operations of VicForests (a state-owned corporation), as required to do so in order to protect the non-timber value of the forest—namely its population of threatened Greater Gliders and Powerful Owls.

Both species are protected under Victoria's Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act, and the Greater Glider—of which the group says there is a significant population in the part of the Strathbogie Forest which will be logged—is now listed as threatened in



HARVESTING BEGINS: Swing-gates installed on the Lima East Road signal that logging can begin in the surrounding forest.

what has been happening, but her response had been totally disheartening.

"We haven't had a response from her office at all.

"We have said all along that our problem isn't with logging.

With a couple of hectares of forest already logged, Mr Lobert said he was concerned any legal action would not prevent extensive amounts of forest to be removed, and that members may feel the need to take more

DELWP were contacted for comment, but were unable to respond to questions with regard to policy at this time.

VicForests has however reportedly denied the operations fail to comply with standards.





The destruction of Greater Glider and Powerful Owl habitat begins.





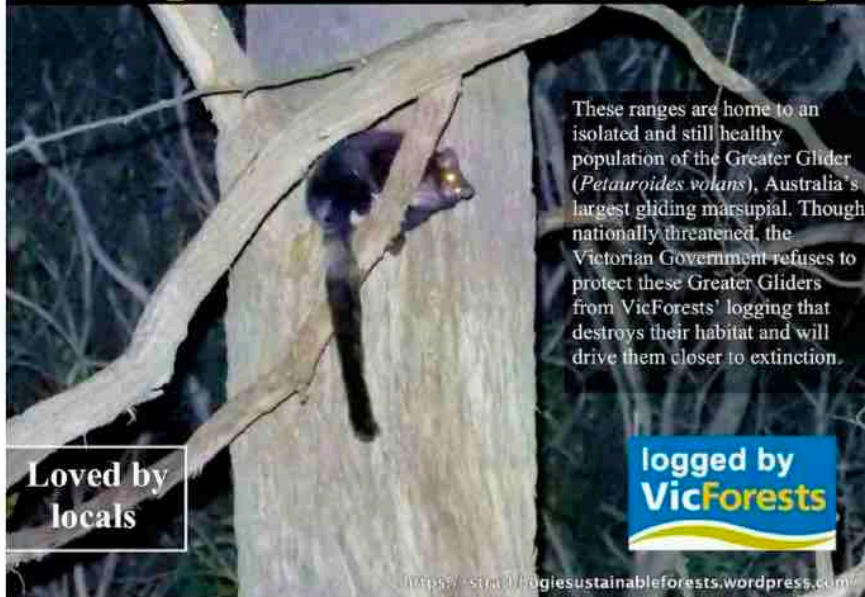
Parlour's Ck selective logging: "We'll just take the trees we want, you won't even know we've been in there."

Season's Greetings from the Strathbogie Forest



Social media memes for Parlour's Creek logging

Strathbogie Forest - Greater Glider refuge



8000+ Australians reckon this is crap management of Strathbogie Forest





Strathbogie Forest Greater Glider (*Petauroides volans*)

Image: Lance Williams



New Year's camp-out, The Messmates, January 2017





Large tree hollows - essential for many of fauna species



FOI by Samantha Dunn, Victorian Greens

To: Minister for Energy,
Environment and Climate
Change



GREATER GLIDER (PETAUROIDES VOLANS VOLANS)

Core message

Ministerial Correspondence

On 4 November 2016, Professor Emeritus Barbara Evans, Convenor of the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 Scientific Advisory Committee, wrote to you regarding the status of the Greater Glider. The Committee is concerned about the decline of the Greater Glider across its range and requests that you:

- support an interim suspension to timber harvesting in the Strathbogie ranges; and
- review timber harvesting prescriptions throughout the Greater Glider's range.

Recommendations

1. That you note that the department will carry out further work to establish what the priority management actions are for the Greater Glider and how protections should be implemented in the timber harvesting regime.
 - Noted
 - Returned for review
2. That you sign the attached letter of reply.
 - Approved
 - Not approved
 - Returned for review

Comments

Please provide arrange a meeting where
with a detailed briefing and
discussion can occur
regarding G.G, SAC and
hot spots

Signed

Lily D'Ambrosio

Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP
Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change

Date

3-1-17

Approved by

Vivienne Clare, Executive Director Strategy, Capability and Innovation

Date

Endorsed by: Lee Miles, Deputy Secretary Forest, Fire and Regions

Signature:

Date:



MIN023780

To: Minister for Energy,
Environment and Climate
Change



From	BIODIVERSITY	Ref	MIN023780
Title	GREATER GLIDER (PETAUROIDES VOLANS VOLANS)	File	

Key Information

Current protection measures and issues

1. There is good evidence that Greater Gliders are experiencing significant declines across Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland. There is also evidence to suggest that the decline in Greater Glider populations across its range is not being experienced by other forest-dependent arboreal mammals to the same extent.
2. In May 2016, on the basis of recent declines across its entire Australian range, the Greater Glider was listed as nationally vulnerable under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act). The EPBC Act does not apply to timber harvesting operations covered by a Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) under the RFA Act 2002. Therefore, EPBC Act listing does not constrain timber harvesting operations within an RFA area, such as the Strathbogie ranges.
3. The Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 (FFG Act) Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) recommended this species for listing under the FFG Act at a meeting on 21 November 2016. The recommendation report was advertised for public comment on Wednesday 14 December and will close on 24 February 2017. Following public consultation, it is likely the SAC will recommend to you that the Greater Glider be listed under the FFG Act, at their first meeting in March 2017.
4. Listing a species under the FFG Act does not create any direct legal requirements on timber harvesting operators. However, operators are required to comply with the precautionary principle when managing the impacts of their operations on biodiversity values and listing does highlight that a species is vulnerable. It also provides for an Action Statement to be prepared by the department. Action Statements that were in place at the time that the Code of Practice for Timber Production 2014 (the Code) was written are reflected in the Code's management and planning prescriptions.
5. The Code does not currently contain any detection based planning protections for Greater Gliders except in the East Gippsland region. The Strathbogie Ranges, the area of interest in the SAC letter, are in the North East region. There are areas of habitat for arboreal mammals (including Greater Gliders) set aside within the zoning scheme. This was established at the time forest management plans were developed, therefore they only cover significant populations that were mapped at that time. This does not include habitat within the Strathbogie ranges.
6. The following groups have also suggested or requested additional protection of the Greater Glider:
 - The Strathbogie Sustainable Forest Group wrote to you on 10 and 21 November 2016 (MIN023525) requesting detection based protection of Greater Gliders (Forest Reports case number 2016-0076).
 - In agreement with the SAC, Arthur Rylah Institute experts have advised that the Greater Glider population in the Strathbogie ranges is relatively large and given declines elsewhere around the state the area is an important refuge for Greater Gliders and the owls that rely on them as prey.
7. Neither you nor the Secretary have the power to suspend or halt timber harvesting that is in compliance with the Code and other elements of the regulatory framework, as is the case in the Strathbogie ranges.

Prepared by: 303 personal
MIN023780

What are we fighting for?



Lightning Ridge (foreground), Charnwood Outdoor Center (in the valley, mid-distance) and Mount Tel-Golden Mountain on the skyline, October 2012.



Nocturnal surveys, April - July 2017



Greater Glider: grey phase above, dark phase below



Mountain Brushtail Possum (*Trichosurus cunninghami*)



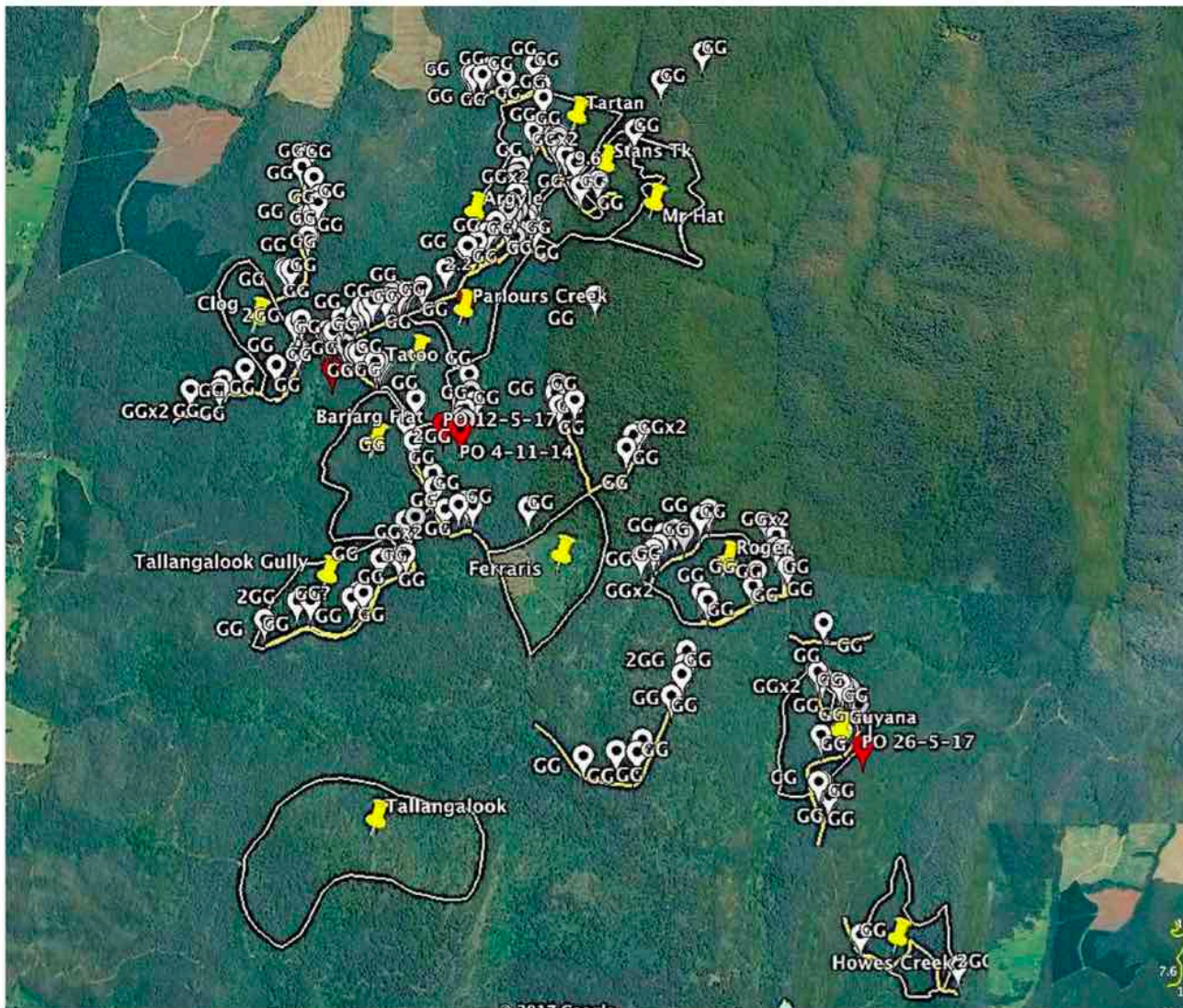
Koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*)



Common Ringtail Possum (*Pseudocheirus peregrinus*)



Greater Glider, Harpers No. 4 Tk.



Team	B. Lambert	GE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tracked	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	VBA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Contact Email	249 433 273						
Date	21-5-17						
Time	14:30-17:30	Weggen Lark, Tk	100 Meter 200m x 2				
Time Interval	10 min	10 min	100 Meter 200m x 2				
Start time	14:30	14:30	100 Meter 200m x 2				
End time	17:30	17:30	100 Meter 200m x 2				
Weather code	1000						
Participants	BL, LAJ						

#	Time	Species	Count	Distance	Comments
1	14:51	Kooka	56 54-744	145 50-746	BL 100m x 200m 3443 375
2	14:56	GG (black)	34 54-744	145 50-746	BL 100m x 200m 3443 375
3	20:43	GG (black)	36 54-744	145 50-746	BL 100m x 200m 3443 375
4	20:10	GG (black)	34 54-744	145 50-746	BL 100m x 200m 3443 375
5	20:10	Powerful owl	120	145 50-746	BL 100m x 200m 3443 375
6	20:10	GG (black)	34 54-744	145 50-746	BL 100m x 200m 3443 375
7	20:30	no ID call	1	145 50-746	BL 100m x 200m 3443 375
8	20:44	GG (black)	36 54-744	145 50-746	BL 100m x 200m 3443 375
9	23:00	GG (black)	34 54-744	145 50-746	BL 100m x 200m 3443 375
10	23:14	GG (black)	34 54-744	145 50-746	BL 100m x 200m 3443 375

Cloud cover, percent of sky covered	0-100%
Air temperature	20°C
Direction of Wind velocity	0-100 km/h
Distance of Wind velocity	0-100 km/h
Humidity	0-100%
Light intensity	0-100%
Moisture	0-100%
Visibility	0-100%

Greater Glider & Powerful Owl survey results (above) with data sheet example (right top) and Greater Glider detection rates, animals/km (right bottom).



Nocturnal transect survey results - Strathbogie State Forest						by Bertram Lobert									
#	Date	Location	Transect length (km)	Duration (mins)	Transect area (ha)	GG	GG/km	CRP	MBP	SG	K	SB	PO	ON	TF
1	26.9.14	Lima East Rd N of Howes Mill Tk	0.54	90	3.24	7	13.0	3			2				
3	2014.11.14	Parlours Creek Tk	0.74	90	4.44	3	4.1	2					1		
4	2015.6.26	Lightning Ridge Tk	0.37	79	2.22	3	8.1	1	1	1	1				
5	2016.9.12	Howes Mill Tk	0.64	55	3.84	7	10.9				2				
6	2016.11.11	Lima East & Barjarg from Parlours to 350 m E a	1.04	80	6.24	17	16.3	4			1				
7	2016.12.2	Lima East & Barjarg	1.27	111	7.62	10	7.9	1	3		4	2			
8	2016.12.9	Lima East Rd, btn Howes & Cleeland	0.78	63	4.68	7	9.0				2				
9	2016.12.11	Parlours Creek Tk (south)	0.25	24	1.50	4	16.0		1		3	1	1		
10	2016.12.12	Stans Tk	0.40	27	2.40	1	2.5				3	1			
11	2016.12.16	Lima East/Jones Tk	1.22	93	7.32	11	9.0	5			1				
12	2017.4.20	Barjarg Rd Roger coupe	0.66	80	3.96	8	12.1			1		1			
13	2017.4.18	Harper's No 4 & Barjarg Rd at Roger coupe	1.22	155	7.32	12	9.8	3				1			
14	2017.4.20	Barjarg Rd near Lima East Rd	0.66	75	3.96	8	12.1			1		1			
15	2017.4.20	Dumbells Tk south	0.66	66	3.96	5	7.6	2	1		2				
16	2017.5.1	Tallangalook Rd	1.41	145	8.46	10	7.1	2	1		1			1	
17	2017.5.1	Dutchman's Tk east	0.50	57	3.00	5	10.0	3			1				
18	2017.5.9	Ferraris Rd from Harper's No 4	0.85	63	5.10	2	2.4								1
19	2017.5.9	Harper's No 4 Tk from Ferraris	0.90	131	5.40	8	8.9		2		1	1			
20	2017.5.12	Barjarg Rd & Tallangalook Rd	1.33	71	7.98	8	6.0	1					1		
21	2017.5.15	Barjarg Rd from Parlour's Tk to Ferraris	0.61	75	3.66	7	11.5	1				1			
22	2017.5.15	Dumbell's Tk north	0.82	115	4.92	11	13.4	3	2						
23	2017.5.22	Howes Ck Tk-Glen Ck Link	0.69	41	4.14	2	2.9		1						
24	2017.5.22	Howes Ck Tk-Harpers Link Link	0.85	47	5.10	1	1.2								
25	2017.5.23	Harpers No 3 from Harpers Link & along Barjar	1.62	119	9.72	16	9.9				1		1		
26	2017.5.29	Lima East Rd & Howes Mill Tk	1.21	81	7.26	6	5.0	2			1				
27	2017.5.29	Lima East Rd from Howes Mill to Parlours	0.45	26	2.70	1	2.2								
28	2017.5.31	Gerars Tk from Dry Ck Rd to 1 km- east	1.00	63	6.00	2	2.0								
29	2017.5.31	Gerars Tk to Ruoaks Link Tk- west	1.38	65	8.28	2	1.4		1						
30	2017.6.2	Cleeland's Tk from Lima East to near Stans	0.83	140	4.98	8	9.6	2							
31	2017.5.26	Dutchman's Tk mid	0.82	109	4.92	5	6.1	9	3						
32	2017.1.28	Howes Mill Tk and Jones Tree	1.12	70	6.72	5	4.5								
		Total	26.84	2506	161.04	202	7.5	46	16	3	27	10	4	1	1

2017 Trailcam surveys



Koala



Swamp Wallaby (*Wallabia bicolor*)



Grey Shrike-thrush (*Colluricincla harmonica*)



Sambar Deer (*Cervus unicolor*)

Mammal species detected	% sites
Swamp Wallaby	77
Red Fox	63
Mountain Brush-tail Possum	57
Sambar Deer	47
Common Wombat	37
Koala	27
Common Ringtail Possum	27
Feral Cat	27
Short-beaked Echidna	23
Agile Antechinus	17
Rat	17
Bush Rat	7
Eastern Grey Kangaroo	3
Long-nosed Bandicoot	3
Black Rat	3
European Rabbit	3
Spot-tailed Quoll	0
Brush-tailed Phascogale	0



Red Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*)



Feral Cat (*Felis catus*)



Common Wombat (*Vombatus ursinus*)



Long-nosed Bandicoot (*Perameles nasuta*)



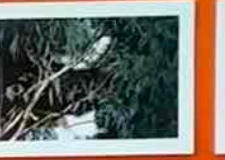
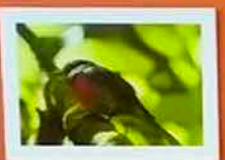
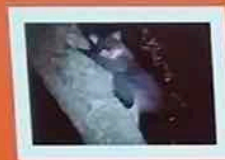
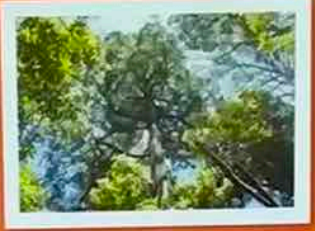
The large number of big, old trees still in the forest explains the high densities of Greater Gliders.



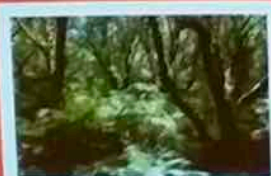
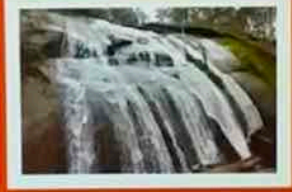
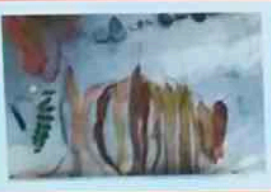
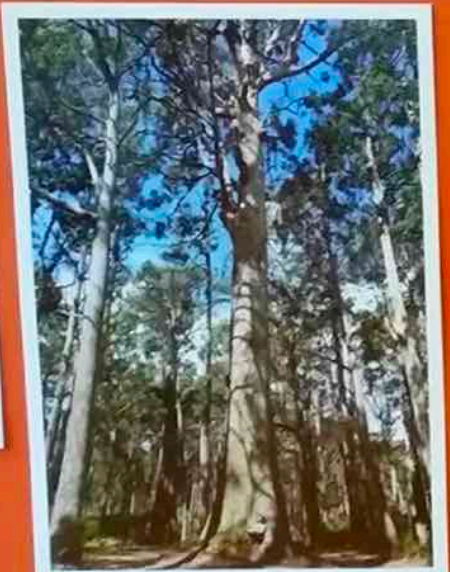
Hollow-bearing tree surveys 2017

	#	Transect	length (km)	area (ha)	HBT number	HBT/ha
29/03/17	1	Barjarg Rd south side@ Clog	1	5	7	1.4
	2	Barjarg - Dutchman's	0.8	4	20	5.0
	3	Barjarg Rd Tatoo boundary (north side)	0.55	2.75	9	3.3
	4	Barjarg Rd, south of Tatoo (south side)	0.55	2.75	15	5.5
	5	Barjarg to Tallangalook south & west side	0.9	4.5	24	5.3
	6	Tallangalook Rd west side @ Barjarg Flat	0.4	2	7	3.5
	7	Tallangalook Rd west side @Tallangalook Gully	1	5	12	2.4
		Tallangalook Rd - Kangaroo Tk N&E of rd	1	5	30	6.0
	9	Kangaroo Tk west side	0.75	3.75	11	2.9
	10	Ferraris Link Tk - Gldn Mt Tk west side	0.95	4.75	13	2.7
	11	Barjarg rd to Harpers No 4 north side	1.6	8	48	6.0
	12	Barjarg Rd south of Harpers #4 to Guyana east side	0.9	4.5	15	3.3
	13	Howes Ck a west & north side	1.4	7	37	5.3
	14	Howes Creek Tk - Glen Ck Link Tk south side	0.7	3.5	10	2.9
	15	Glen Creek Link Tk north side	0.55	2.75	9	3.3
	16	Howes Creek Tk from Glen Creek Link (east side)	0.6	3	16	5.3
	17	Harpers #4 north side	0.6	3	29	9.7
	18	Lima East Rd-Parlours Ck Tk east/south side	0.7	3.5	13	3.7
	19	Lima East rd north of Jones Tk west side	1.5	7.5	26	3.5
20/04/17	20	Barjarg Rd @Clog to Dumbell's Tk (north side)	0.5	2.5	16	6.4
	21	Dumbell's Tk south (west side)	1	5	28	5.6
	22	Dumbell's Tk north (west side)	0.8	4	33	8.3
	23	Dumbell's Tk north (east side)	0.8	4	36	9.0
	24	Dumbell's Tk south (east side)	1	5	35	7.0
	25	Lima East Rd to Howes Mill Tk (west side)	1.1	5.5	7	1.3
	26	Lima East/Howes Mill to Cleeland's Tk west side	1.1	5.5	29	5.3
	27	Lima East Rd/Cleeland's Tk to Jones Tk (west side)	0.3	1.5	7	4.7
	28	Jones Tk (south side)	1	5	44	8.8
	29	Jones Tk return (north side)	1	5	43	8.6
	30	Lima East Rd/jones Tk cnr to Cleelands Tk (east side)	0.3	1.5	7	4.7
	31	Cleeland's Tk (north side)	1	5	45	9.0
	32	Stans Tk/cnr Cleeland's to Howes Mill Tk (east side)	0.5	2.5	23	9.2
	33	Howes Mill Tk/Stans cnr (east side) heading south	1	5	21	4.2
	34	Howes Mill Tk going south (east side) to Barjarg	0.8	4	34	8.5
Total			28.65	143.25	759	5.3

Strathbogie Forest
photo display,
Honeysuckle Art
Show, April 2016



Our
Strathbogie
Forest





Vicforests misleads Strathbogie community, DELWP & Minister.

Dear Minister D'Ambrosio,

Following their contentious logging of ParLOUR's coupe late in 2016, Vicforests stated in their own media release that they had no plans for further logging in the Strathbogies (Items 12 & 13 below). Indeed, Vicforests provided this information in a briefing to DELWP and to you, Minister (Item 11 below):

"Once harvesting in ParLOUR's coupe is complete ... Vicforests has advised they have no plans to harvest further coupes in the Strathbogie ranges within the next two years."

The community welcomed this position and saw it as providing some breathing space for calmer discussion. So, it came as a total shock to us when, last week, Vicforests announced they do have plans for more logging – *this year*, and we read about it in the paper! Vicforests is now publicly denying it committed to 'no logging', instead choosing to blame the Strathbogie community for misrepresenting it (Item 15 below)!

If, as Vicforests now insists, it has always had plans to continue logging in the Strathbogies, then the information in their media release and in the FOI documents clearly had the effect of misleading not just the community, but also DELWP and the Government!

Whichever way one looks at Vicforests' behavior and words, they consistently treat the local community with deception and disdain, they are trashing their own brand and tainting the Government's.

We have repeatedly said that we are not totally opposed to logging, yet the duplicitous behavior of Vicforests is backing the community into a corner. Vicforests-managed operations now have zero credibility in the Strathbogies – they have no social license to log and the community is prepared to challenge them every step of the way!

VEAC – the way forward for the Strathbogie Forest

The Strathbogie Forest is a small, island-forest, isolated from similar forests to the south and east – its remaining wildlife is vulnerable to all land-use and environmental pressures. Since 2013, the communities living around the Strathbogie Forest have been calling for a VEAC Investigation. Since 2015, politicians from all sides have acknowledged the need for such a VEAC Investigation and recent recognition by Departmental scientists and your Scientific Advisory Committee that this forest is critical to the survival of the Greater Glider, underscores this need.

Select chronology

1	2015	Strathbogie Sustainable Forests Group (SSFG) calls for a moratorium on logging, pending a VEAC investigation to assess the forest's diverse and increasingly important values.
2	May 2016	The Greater Glider is listed as nationally vulnerable under the EPBC Act and subsequently the FFG Act. Neither the EPBC nor FFG Acts apply to timber harvesting operations in RFA areas (such as the Strathbogie Ranges). The Code of practice for timber production does not contain any detection-based planning protections for Greater Gliders in the Strathbogie Ranges or NE Victoria.
3	Sept. 2016	8000+ Australian's sign petition calling for a moratorium on logging in Strathbogie Forests pending a proper VEAC investigation (Link).
4	October 2016	The Strathbogie community documents significant biodiversity values in and around ParLOUR's coupe. SSFG requests Vicforests not log ParLOUR's coupe; rather to log one of the other coupes on the TRP that has lower conservation values. Vicforests declines. SSFG notifies DELWP of significant biodiversity values in ParLOUR's coupe, esp the high densities of the Greater Glider and repeat detection of the Powerful Owl, both FFG-listed species.
5	October 2016	VF inform the public of their intention to log ParLOUR's coupe by nailing notices to trees at the coupe.
6	4 Nov. 2016	Emeritus Professor Barbara Evans (convener of SAC) writes to Minister D'Ambrosio on behalf of the committee, requesting the suspension of timber harvesting of ParLOUR's coupe in the Strathbogie Ranges due to concerns about impacts of the Greater Glider.
7	11 Nov. 2016	Vicforests informs the community "Once operations have commenced, we are planning on inviting community members to view the operation in progress. This is likely to be mid December".
8	14 Nov. 2016	VF commence logging ParLOUR's coupe.
9	Jan 2017	Logging of ParLOUR's coupe finishes. In spite of previous VF commitment, the community is <i>not</i> invited to observe any aspect of the logging of ParLOUR's coupe!
10	Jan 2017	DELWP advises Minister D'Ambrosio that the decline of Greater Gliders in the Strathbogie Ranges appears to have been less severe than other parts of Victoria. In agreement with the SAC, Arthur Rylah Institute experts advise that the Strathbogie Ranges is an important refuge for Greater Gliders and the owls that rely on them as prey (FOI documents).
11	Early Feb. 2017	DELWP briefs the Minister that, "Once logging is finished in ParLOUR's coupe, Vicforests has advised they have no plans to harvest further coupes in the Strathbogie Ranges within the next two years." (FOI documents MIN 023780 para. 11)
12	3 Feb. 2017	Vicforests announces that ParLOUR's coupe logging has finished and that it has "no current plans to commence further harvesting operations in the Strathbogies". And that "...The community will be notified once any future plans have been finalised". (Vicforests Media Release, Feb. 2017)

Vicforests' deception on public display

No break for Strathbogie forest

Aug 9, 2017

By WILL MURRAY

THE Strathbogie Sustainable Forests Group (SSFG) celebrated some apparent good news earlier this week, after freedom of information (FOI) documents obtained from the Victorian Environment Minister's Office indicated VicForests had 'no plans to log Parlours Coupe in the Strathbogie Ranges for two years, once current operations were complete.'

However, when presented to VicForests for comment, general manager stakeholders and planning Lachlan Spencer told the *Gazette* that "the information regarding no plans to harvest in the Strathbogie ranges within the next two years is incorrect".

"As previously communicated with the Strathbogie community, VicForests has plans to commence timber harvesting later in the year," Mr Spencer continued.

This is devastating news to the SSFG, who had gone to the point of drafting a media release congratulating the acknowledgement by Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), VicForests and Minister Lily D'Ambrosio of the importance of Parlours Coupe and the broader Strathbogies' as habitat for the endangered Greater Glider.

"This is indeed good news and suggests VicForests acknowledges the importance of the Strathbogie forest for Greater Glider conservation," the now redundant release read.

Importantly, there is breathing space to allow consideration of how best to manage this important forest area.

With VicForests making it clear that they have no intention of ceasing operations in Parlours Coupe, any good will from the SSFG has quickly evaporated.

"What has changed between



A CHANGE OF HEART: VicForests say that any suggestion logging in the Strathbogie Forest would be halted for two years is false, despite advice suggesting it could impact the population of endangered Greater Gliders in the area.

January, when the FOI documents show they advised DELWP that they had no plans to log for two years and now?" Bert Lobert from the SSFG asked.

"Was the 'no logging' comment just to appease DELWP or the minister?"

"How can our community have any confidence in anything VicForests says when their plans can apparently change so quickly?"

Those involved in trying to halt VicForests' timber harvesting in the Strathbogie forest earlier this year said that continued felling would be devastating to the population of endangered Greater Gliders in the area.

Indeed, the FOI documents show that preserving habitat for the Greater Gliders was a significant part of VicForests apparent decision to impose a two-year hiatus on logging, giving the coupe a change to undergo

some regeneration.

This was in line with advice received by the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) on the environmental impacts of the operations late 2016, who asked for the logging to be suspended at the time.

"The Strathbogie Ranges are considered an important area for Greater Glider conservation as the area has not experienced the population declines witnessed elsewhere in the state, potentially due to the absence of timber harvesting or fires in recent decades," the chair of the SAC wrote to the Minister on November 24 2016.

"The Scientific Advisory committee requests that the Minister consider this issue and support an interim suspension to timber harvesting at locations in the Strathbogie Ranges in

order to establish a stronger knowledge base and ensure that logging activities are conducive with protection of this significant species."

This advice was ignored by both Minister Lily D'Ambrosio and VicForests, and the potential damage to the species appears to remain low on VicForests' list of concerns.

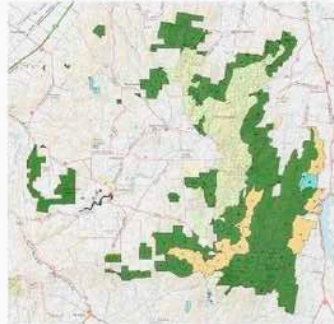
"VicForests believes the Greater Glider can coexist with a sustainable timber industry," Mr Spencer said.

"The Greater Glider is found in forests from Queensland to Victoria and it is estimated there is more than 100,000 mature individuals throughout Australia.

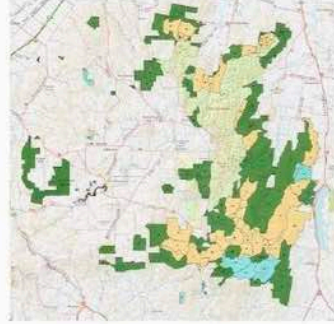
"VicForests implements a range of conservation measures that support the Greater Glider and we are currently reviewing our practices to identify ways to further strengthen these measures."

Fire Management Zones - Existing and Alternatives - Strathbogie Community Bushfire Planning Group

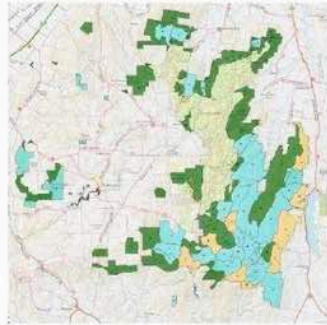
Existing Zoning



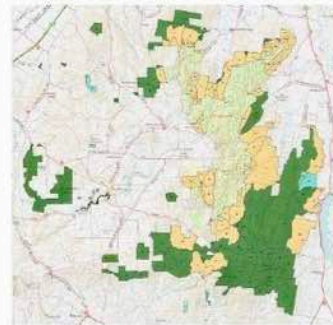
DELWP Staff Zoning



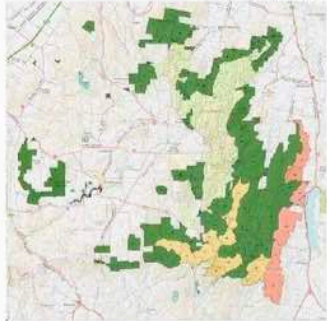
Bert Lobert Zoning



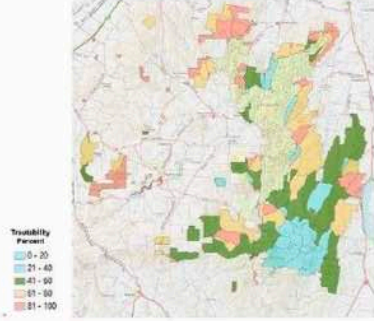
Richard Mailer / HVP Zoning



Roger Coates & David Scott Zoning

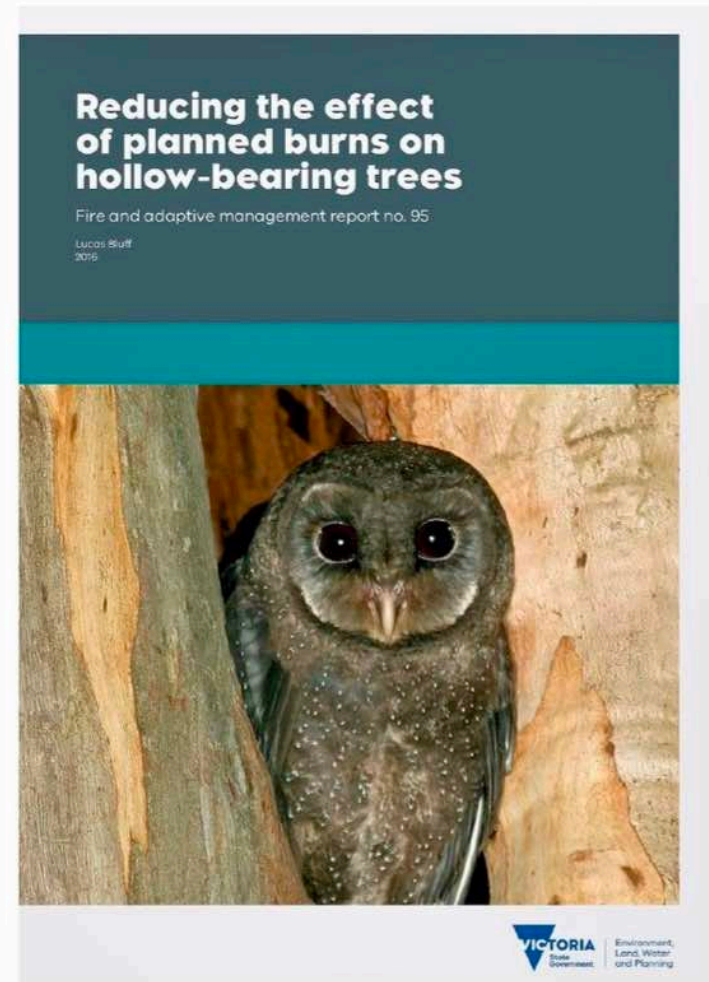


Treatability - Percentage Burnable by Burn Unit



DELWP report shows planned burning a threat to hollow-bearing trees.

<https://strathbogiesustainableforests.files.wordpress.com/2016/04/fire-and-adapt-mgt-report-95-reduce-effect-of-planned-burns-on-hbts-2016-1.pdf>



Participation in the Strathbogie Community Bushfire Planning Group allowed the Strathbogie Forest group to contribute to development of planned burning policy.



Mt Seldom Seen, Toorour Reference Area, November 2017



Pink Bells, *Tetralochea ciliata*.



Exfoliating granite rock formations



Rocky Outcrop Shrubland, Toorour RA.



Gnamma, Mt Seldom seen



Forest assessment in Barjarg Flat coupe - the next coupe to be logged, after Parlour's Creek.



A multi-age forest with very high conservation value



Evidence of historic logging.



One of the ancient Mountain Gums in the coupe



This time the community was organized and ready - on the ground, in the forest and in the media.



Logging crews were obstructed and appeals made to Minister Lily D'Ambrosio.





Community call to protect the Strathbogie Forest

A DEDICATED COMMUNITY AROUND THE STRATHBOGIE RANGES HAS FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS BEEN FIGHTING TO PROTECT THEIR UNIQUE PATCH OF FOREST, WRITES **BERT LOBERT** AND **MATT RUCHEL**.

They are now united in seeking better protection of this special place from logging, poorly planned fuel reduction burning and other threats in the lead up to the November state election.



PHOTO: SAVE OUR STRATHBOGIE FOREST CAMPAIGN

Significant areas of the forest have not recovered from logging and the subsequent forest regeneration attempts. The greatest threat is the deliberate logging of the highest conservation value areas remaining

Forest represents only secure habitat in the entire Strathbogie Ranges for the long-term survival of hundreds of

in the entire Strathbogie Ranges. The logging of both Parlours' Creek and Barjarg Flat coupes, in 2016, 2017 and

Environment Our wide brown land

Greater glider hotspot logged against Victorian government's own advice

Exclusive: State government-commissioned survey shows Strathbogie forest has very high densities of threatened species



▲ VicForests has been logging the Strathbogie forest in north-east Victoria, despite warnings that the region is a greater glider hotspot. Photograph: Auscape/UG via Getty Images

Gregg Borschmann

<https://strathbogiesustainableforests.wordpress.com/2018/04/11/vicforests-logging-greater-glider-hotspot/>



This brave little possum entered Barjarg Flat coupe overnight and stopped the logging for 24 hrs, before descending and disappearing.

The Euroa Gazette

Incorporating the Nagambie Times and Violet Town Sentinel

AVENEIL · EUROA · LONGWOOD · NAGAMBIE · STRATHBOGIE · VIOLET TOWN
Phone: (053) 5795 3041 www.eurogazette.com.au Wednesday, February 21, 2018 Price: \$1.30 (inc. GST)

Protesters attempt to blockade forest

LOGGING began again in the Strathbogie Forest last week, despite the best efforts of protesters trying to prevent harvesting equipment from reaching the site.

More than 30 people made the dawn drive through the forest along Barjarg Road, Strathbogie on Wednesday morning, past the proposed logging site at Barjarg Flat coupe, parking their cars on the narrow windy road to prevent trucks carrying machinery from entering the forest.

Upon seeing the protesters forming a barrier against accessing the coupe, the truck carrying the machinery was forced to turn around and head back to Mansfield for the day, but not before taking pictures of the registration number of each car stopped on the road.

"I'm not talking to any of you," the driver said as he went about taking photos with

Harvesting begins again despite efforts to stop equipment



PAULA MEYER
protester
meyer.paula@vnet.net.au

his phone.

"I've just been told to photograph and leave."

The protesters said they were there to halt the timber harvesting operations within the mature forests, which they say contain a number of endangered species found almost nowhere else, including the Greater Glider, Koala, and the threatened Powerful Owl.

While holding their placards, those gathered on the road declared they would keep up their protests for as long as it took to ensure the forest was protected against timber harvesting.

"We have lived in contact with the Premier and Minister D'Ambrosio repeatedly, repeating simply that they halt the logging until a

formal investigation is done to determine the appropriate use of the public land here, and which areas should be protected," Ms Sawyer continued.

"Having failed to respond at all to our repeated requests, we have no option as people who care intensely about these forests and their future, than to take direct action and halt the logging."

Officers from the Victorian Government's Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEJTR) approached the protesters on Thursday morning, warning them that continued blocking of access to the coupe could result in hefty fines.

The protesters therefore said they would continue their presence at the site for as long as possible, but allow

VicForests' machinery access to Barjarg Flat.

VicForests, the state government backed organisation conducting the timber harvesting, rejected the protesters' assertion that the timber harvesting would do irreparable damage to the forest, and therefore, the species within it.

Bill Paul, Community Forestry Manager at VicForests, said that only 0.1 per cent of the Strathbogie Forest was being harvested, and that the operation would directly support around 25 jobs in the area.

"Over the last few years, VicForests has met with local community members on many occasions to better understand their concerns and explain our process," Mr Paul said.

Protesters' readiness access to Barjarg Flat.

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Protesters attempt to blockade entry of equipment

As a result of this engagement, we have agreed to use a significantly low intensity harvesting method in the Strathbogies known as single-tree selection.

"Single-tree selection only removes around 50 per cent of trees in the planned area and leaves behind trees of varying ages to allow grow larger or provide habitat for native species."

VicForests also refused that nothing had been done to investigate the population of endangered species in the forest, claiming that a number of studies had been conducted relating to logging, and that safeguards were in place to protect the animals during the harvesting.

"It is important that we balance environmental conservation with the demand for timber products," Mr Paul continued.

Last year Arthur Kylin Institute conducted surveys looking for threatened species including Greater Gliders and VicForests used this survey information to guide our harvest plans.

"Following this, our Conservation Biologist spent three days walking the area with a conservation focus and individually marking trees to ensure best available habitat is protected for the Greater Glider."

"Once harvesting commences our Conservation Biologist will spend one day a week ensuring the contractor is applying appropriate protection measures for the Glider."

Local environment groups say



YOU SHALL NOT PASS: Protesters block Barjarg Road, preventing the logging machinery from accessing the to-be-harvested coupe at Barjarg Flat in the Strathbogie Forest

their own studies contradict the findings VicForests are relying on, and that any reduction in habitat could critically endanger local populations of these species.

There is a concern amongst the group that the harvested logs will be sold as 'low grade' timber, and therefore cannot be used for high quality products; instead, much of it ends up as firewood.

A statement from VicForests

rejected that claim.

"This quality of wood is certainly not being harvested for firewood, which would greatly undervalue the product and be a commercially nonviable use," the statement read.

"Rather, it will be for high grade purposes, such as high quality sawlog for furniture, flooring, staircases and housing construction.

"As with any wood harvest, some off-cuts do not meet the quality

needed and are suitable for lower grade use."

"VicForests believes in the right for anyone to protest, however the people who protest against VicForests' harvesting operations, do not necessarily represent the views of wider Victorian public," Mr Paul said.

"We are working with relevant government agencies and our contractors to resolve this situation."

Strathbogies sustained

Campaigns by separate groups are changing perspectives on forest management, writes DALE WEBSTER

FIVE years ago, wood began to get sprayed that about 12 "coups" of mixed species coupes in the Strathbogie Ranges in North East Victoria were to be cut down.

It was feared that under clear felling methods, the timber harvest would leave a 4.5km long scar through the heart of the forest that was filled with ancient trees, mature understorey and natural hotlands that provided a rich habitat for insects and wildlife.

And here growing number of aquatic wildlife industry depends on access to these forest reserves to keep their lower well fed and healthy: the loss of such a large resource would have been devastating. They knew they had to persuade the State Government there simply had to be a better way.

As there was.

A single tree selection harvesting technique, called an *intensity management*, the Victorian Farmers' Association and forestry experts, has been trialed in the Strathbogie coupe for the past two years.

The lesson from that trial has been used to develop a framework for harvesting mixed species forest stands in lowland low-lying areas.

Private timber industry consultant Owen Brown of Forest Solutions is a forest scientist who had been working with the VAA on the project.

"He has been heavily criticised by some as a 'tree whittaker' for his work on this issue but he is a quality professional of these approaches to finding a solution for both parties."

"One of the things I was so impressed about with the VAA was their ability to understand the requirements and needs of the timber industry," he said.

VAA could see that with its nature degraded but viable systems in Central Victoria and retaining trees at all growth stages had the potential for wider application in other types of forests.

After a two-year process of consultation and collaboration to find an outcome that delivered credible, suitable co-existence for both stakeholders, a decision was made by VicForests to begin a transition from clear felling to "wood free" timber harvesting in mid to low elevation, mixed species forests in a model based on selective harvesting principles.

The trials of single tree selection harvesting techniques have been carried out in coupes in the Strathbogie Forest since 2016.

The first harvest described as a "wood free outcome" by Owen, who had been part of a conference last year that the issue was that not everyone's "opinions were equal."

He came up with a set of principles that drew on another sustainable forestry approach – continuous cover forestry – to improve the technique.

The second attempt, using those principles, was deemed much more of a success and the VAA commissioned a report from Owen proposing a

formal framework it could present to government. That framework is now in the hands of VicForests and is being looked at as part of a statewide analysis of logging in low elevation, mixed-species forests.

"From our point of view the outcome at the second trial site is probably the best application of single tree selection. I have generally ever seen," Owen said.

"They can embed this into the management options that are available," Owen said. "I think this will give VicForests a wonderful tool to use not just on low intensity coupes, but also where conservation issues are high or close to home where suitable things could be a little bit sensitive."

Fighting to save the forest on a different front is the Strathbogie Sustainable Forest Group, which grew out of public concern in Violet Town in 2013 when over 100 of the logging of logging.

"We use the term an advocating for improved forest management so we've been raising concerns about the broad natural values in the forest by engaging extensively all speaking to all sides of the argument," forestry manager Robert Robert said. "In the 40 years since we started, hundreds of people have come out into the forest for guided walks, field days and ecological research."

"Much of the work carried out by the group has been what Mr Robert describes as 'citizen science', teaching the staff of species in the area such as the Cooper-Glider."

Through this work, a lot more is known about their numbers in the Strathbogie, high enough to raise significant concerns about ongoing protection of their habitat.

While Robert estimated the progress the group has made in changing attitudes towards logging techniques used in the area, he says the big question was whether it should be allowed in the first place.

"What the Strathbogie Forest really needs is a comprehensive assessment of values," he said.

"There hasn't been any scientific research as well as since the 1850s and it's been in the 1990s leading up to the Revised Forest Agreement."

"We don't think there should be any logging in the Strathbogie because we don't know what we're doing."

"I'm not certain enough that it can be done with the best of our knowledge left in the whole of the biogeography of the Strathbogie Ranges and it's very precious."



VicForests' logging of Barjarg Flat coupe made local and state news for several weeks.

An FOI request, from Sam Dunn of the Victorian Greens, for Ministerial correspondence about the 'Greater Glider' produced telling and embarrassing material.

To: Minister for Energy,
Environment and Climate
Change

RECEIVED
DATE 29/12 BY 130



GREATER GLIDER (PETAUROIDES VOLANS VOLANS)

Core message

Ministerial Correspondence

On 4 November 2016, Professor Emeritus Barbara Evans, Convenor of the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* Scientific Advisory Committee, wrote to you regarding the status of the Greater Glider. The Committee is concerned about the decline of the Greater Glider across its range and requests that you:

- support an interim suspension to timber harvesting in the Strathbogie ranges; and
- review timber harvesting prescriptions throughout the Greater Glider's range.

Recommendations

1. That you note that the department will carry out further work to establish what the priority management actions are for the Greater Glider and how protections should be implemented in the timber harvesting regime.
 - Noted
 - Returned for review
2. That you sign the attached letter of reply.
 - Approved
 - Not approved
 - Returned for review

Comments

Please provide arrange a meeting where with a detailed briefing and discussion can occur regarding G.G., SAC and hot spots

Signed

Lily D'Ambrosio

Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP
Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change

Date

3-1-17

Approved by

Vivienne Clare, Executive Director Strategy, Capability and Innovation

Date

Endorsed by: Lee Miles, Deputy Secretary Forest, Fire and Regions

Signature:

Date:



MIN023780

To: Minister for Energy,
Environment and Climate
Change



From BIODIVERSITY
Title GREATER GLIDER (PETAUROIDES VOLANS VOLANS)

Ref MIN023780
File

Key Information

Current protection measures and issues

1. There is good evidence that Greater Gliders are experiencing significant declines across Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland. There is also evidence to suggest that the decline in Greater Glider populations across its range is not being experienced by other forest-dependent arboreal mammals to the same extent.
2. In May 2016, on the basis of recent declines across its entire Australian range, the Greater Glider was listed as nationally vulnerable under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). The EPBC Act does not apply to timber harvesting operations covered by a Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) under the *RFA Act 2002*. Therefore, EPBC Act listing does not constrain timber harvesting operations within an RFA area, such as the Strathbogie ranges.
3. The *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* (FFG Act) Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) recommended this species for listing under the FFG Act at a meeting on 21 November 2016. The recommendation report was advertised for public comment on Wednesday 14 December and will close on 24 February 2017. Following public consultation, it is likely the SAC will recommend to you that the Greater Glider be listed under the FFG Act, at their first meeting in March 2017.
4. Listing a species under the FFG Act does not create any direct legal requirements on timber harvesting operators. However, operators are required to comply with the precautionary principle when managing the impacts of their operations on biodiversity values and listing does highlight that a species is vulnerable. It also provides for an Action Statement to be prepared by the department. Action Statements that were in place at the time that the *Code of Practice for Timber Production 2014* (the Code) was written are reflected in the Code's management and planning prescriptions.
5. The Code does not currently contain any detection based planning protections for Greater Gliders except in the East Gippsland region. The Strathbogie Ranges, the area of interest in the SAC letter, are in the North East region. There are areas of habitat for arboreal mammals (including Greater Gliders) set aside within the zoning scheme. This was established at the time forest management plans were developed, therefore they only cover significant populations that were mapped at that time. This does not include habitat within the Strathbogie ranges.
6. The following groups have also suggested or requested additional protection of the Greater Glider:
 - The Strathbogie Sustainable Forest Group wrote to you on 10 and 21 November 2016 (MIN023525) requesting detection based protection of Greater Gliders (Forest Reports case number 2016-0076).
 - In agreement with the SAC, Arthur Rylah Institute experts have advised that the Greater Glider population in the Strathbogie ranges is relatively large and given declines elsewhere around the state the area is an important refuge for Greater Gliders and the owls that rely on them as prey.
7. Neither you nor the Secretary have the power to suspend or halt timber harvesting that is in compliance with the Code and other elements of the regulatory framework, as is the case in the Strathbogie ranges.

Prepared by: 333 personal

MIN023780

Page 2



This giant Messmate epitomized the values of the forest.



The imminent logging of Barjarg Flat galvanized opposition to native forest logging and drew many protesters to the forest.

Then, in February 2018, it started: roading, landing, logging.



Whole logs ready for container transport



<https://strathbogiesustainableforests.wordpress.com/2018/04/28/greater-glider-habitat-and-local-jobs-exported-to-china/>



Barjarg Flat was logged by Vicforests after and in spite of DELWP surveys that found the coupe had amongst the highest detection rates of Greater Gliders (an EPBC listed species) ever recorded in Victoria.



Whole logs were cut to shipping container length, trucked to Geelong and shipped offshore, likely to China.



The community standing strong in the face of a second coupe being logged.





More fungi!

Community activities exploring the diversity of life in the forest continued, May 2018.





A 4-day fast & commune with the forest



Mt Tel



Vision Quest, Mt Tel, May 2018

An interlude and personal
journey during the Barjarg
Flat logging.



Golden Mountain from Mt Tel



Memorial to a friend & forest supporter

Under The Sun fundraising concert



Funds were being raised to bring a court case against the Victorian Government, challenging the legality of current protection measures for the Powerful Owl in north east Victoria. Ultimately, we didn't need to proceed with the case as the listing of the Greater Glider under federal Environmental legislation was a stronger lever.

Benalla Performing Arts Center fundraising concert



Voices for the Forest

An acoustic concert to raise funds for the Save Strathbogrie Forest campaign which is fighting to protect the old growth forest and home of the Powerful Owl & Greater Glider.

Ella Hooper - Lisa Mitchell

JoJo Smith

Benalla Performing Arts Centre 9th June 2018

7pm to 10.30pm Tickets \$50 and available via

www.trybooking.com/VKPJ For further info contact 0417166824



Save Our Strathbogrie Forest

Donate to support our work through:
Euroa Environment Group (EEG)
BSB 803078
Account 100068594

We are raising money for a legal action to protect Powerful Owls - a threatened species - in our Strathbogrie

The Victorian Government has a legal obligation to create Powerful Owl Management Areas (POMA)

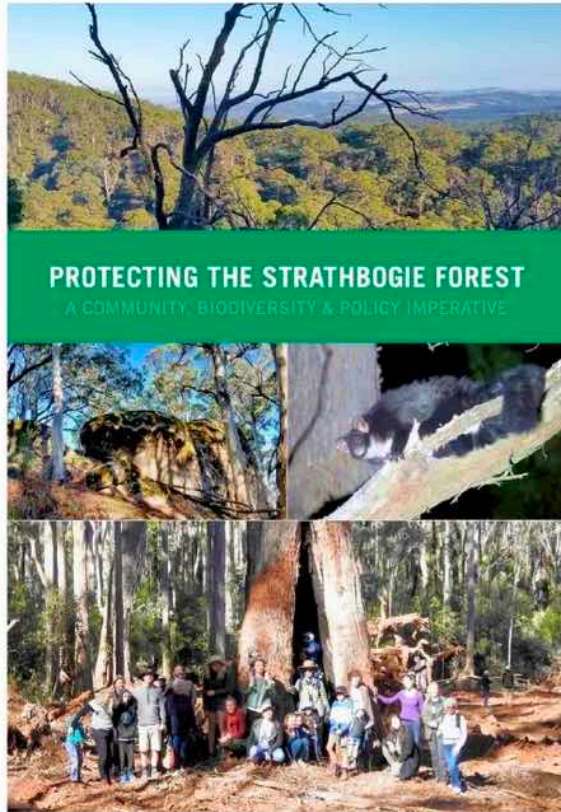
2017 - Citizen scientists found Powerful Owls close to recently logged areas. The Victorian Government have ignored all our efforts to have these observations recognised and put a new POMA in place. So we're taking them to court.

through this legal action we aim to gain a new POMA of 500 hectares, which would effectively be a conservation reserve excluded from logging.

As the observed Powerful Owls occur in and around designated logging coupes, a new POMA reserve would protect high value forest for Greater Gliders and Koalas as well as Powerful Owls.

We have assistance from Environment Justice Australia for our legal case, but

Protecting the Strathbogie Forest - report launch



<https://strathbogiesustainableforests.wordpress.com/2018/09/24/new-report-calls-for-forest-action-in-victorias-strathbogies/>



RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Call on the Victorian State Government to cease native timber harvesting activities in the Strathbogie Forest.
2. Call on the Victorian Government to accelerate the transition from native timber harvesting in Victoria, to plantation-based timber supply with changes to taxation incentives, and advocacy to the Federal Government for changes to regulations to give plantation timber better access to carbon farming schemes.
3. Support the establishment of a protected conservation area under the National Parks Act 1975, encompassing all of the existing Strathbogie State Forest and associated public land.

Strathbogie Council calls for end to native forest logging in Strathbogie Forest, October 2018

<https://strathbogiesustainableforests.wordpress.com/2018/10/17/3440/>

9.7.5 Strathbogie State Forest (cont.)

RECOMMENDATION (cont.)

4. Promote the economic future of the Strathbogie Forest as focussed on nature-based tourism and recreational activities and work with local groups and regional tourism bodies to achieve this.
5. Notify the Victorian Government Ministers responsible for Agriculture and Environment, as well as Local, State and Federal Members, of this resolution.



Blue Pincushion, *Brunonia australis*



Mr Hat, coupe assessment, Dec. 2018.

In anticipation of more logging, we continued with coupe assessments.



Bottle-daisy, *Lagenofera* sp





Plantation forestry, Strathbogie Ranges

The Strathbogie Ranges has a viable timber industry, one that has dozens of permanent employees and is profitable.

That's not to say plantation forestry doesn't have issues - there are many - but it exists and supplies a product that's in high demand.

Published in May 2018, finally released in February 2019 following an FOI request, the ARIER report made the scientific case that the Strathbogrie Forest was important for the state-wide protection of the Greater Glider.

Strathbogrie Forest campaign gets a boost

PREMIER ANDREWS SHOULD LISTEN TO BOTH EXPERTS AND REGIONAL VICTORIANS WRITES **BERT LOBERT**.

Previously we have highlighted the community campaign to protect the Strathbogrie Forest in the north-east of the state (*Park Watch* September 2018). Now, significant results of a recent government survey gives the community additional strength to continue the fight.

Citizen science surveys conducted in 2016–17, funded by the Victorian Government, found exceptionally high numbers of greater gliders in



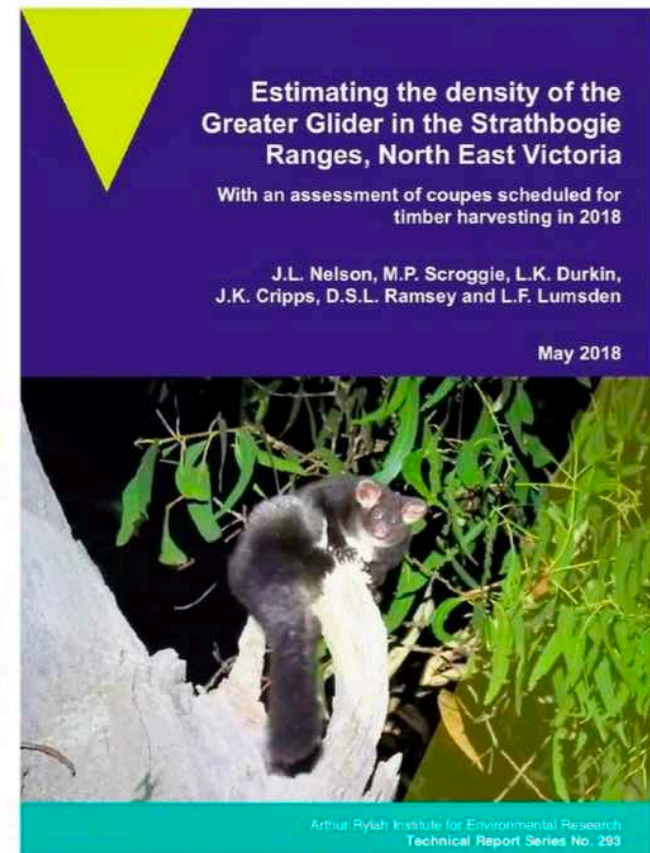
Above and inset: The local community continue to stand up for their forest.



The report found that:

- The Strathbogrie Forest supports a large and regionally important population of greater gliders.
- The greater glider population in the Strathbogrie Forest has not suffered the declines that have occurred in the Central Highlands and East Gippsland.
- The greater glider population in the Strathbogrie Forest is important for

The Andrews Government has been vocal about listening to regional



<https://strathbogriesustainableforests.wordpress.com/2019/02/12/estimating-the-density-of-the-greater-glider-in-the-strathbogrie-ranges/>



Forest Community Protection Orders

The community decided it was time to ramp-up action.



If Vicforests could nail signs to trees restricting access to parts of the forest, then so could we! 'Community protection orders' were placed at every coupe in the forest - January 2019.

In May 2019, every logging coupe in the Strathbogie forest was removed from the Timber Release Plan - a significant step that set the stage for the Victorian Government's major announcement later that year.

Minister D'Ambrosio's big announcement - a permanent end to logging in the Strathbogie Forest! 7th November 2019.



This announcement was part of the Victorian Government's package of measures that included establishment of several Immediate Protected Areas across the state and an end to all native forest logging in Victoria by 2030.



A little celebration was in order!

Minister D'Ambrosio with members of SOSF, Councillor Alistair Thomson and government scientist Dr. Lindy Lumsden.



SAVE OUR STRATHBOGIE FOREST



**And more celebration
with Gary & friends
8th December 2020**



Lily D'Ambrosio MP

STATE MEMBER FOR MILL PARK

- Minister for Energy, Environment & Climate Change
- Minister for Solar Homes



Protecting Victoria's Forests And Threatened Species

7th Nov 2019

The Andrews Labor Government has announced the largest environmental protection policy in the state's history, with immediate protections for the iconic Greater Glider species, native fauna and Victoria's remaining old-growth forest.

This historic decision, which includes a gradual phaseout of all logging in native forests by 2030, will reduce the amount of carbon in the atmosphere by 1.71 million tonnes of carbon-dioxide-equivalent each year for 25 years – the equivalent of taking 730,000 cars off the road annually.

Under the plan, 90,000 hectares of Victoria's remaining rare and precious old growth forest – aged up to 600 years old – will be protected immediately.

The announcement also includes the release of the Greater Glider Action Statement, an important roadmap to protect this iconic species, which was first listed as threatened in 2017.

To protect the future of the Greater Glider – alongside the Leadbeater's Possum and more than 35 other threatened species – the Action Statement maps out more than 96,000 hectares of forest across Victoria immediately exempt from logging.

This habitat has been identified by experts as being critical to the survival of the Greater Glider and a range of other precious flora and fauna – many of which are not found anywhere else on earth.

These additional protections will provide over 186,000 hectares of area now protected from logging – equivalent to more than 100,000 MCGs and the biggest addition to our reserve system over 20 years.

Continued ...

By 2030, Victoria will be home to an area of native forest protected from logging that is larger than the entire land mass of Tasmania.

By acting now, we're ensuring our precious old growth forest and the habitat of our rarest native species exists for future generations.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change, Lily D'Ambrosio

"This is the largest environmental protection plan in our state's history."

"We're taking this step to protect our precious natural gifts for generations to come, while striking the right balance between the environment and jobs."

"By ending the destruction of our old growth forests immediately, we're protecting the habitat of our Greater Gliders, Leadbeater's Possums, and many other threatened species."



Shop 2/30 Oleander Drive, Mill Park VIC 3082

P: 9422 5171 **E:** lily.d'ambrosio@parliament.vic.gov.au



Eastern margin of the Strathbogie Forest: Glen Creek Reference Area in the foreground and Lake Nillahcootie in the distance.

Following pages: Regular, targeted communication was important for the duration of the campaign.

Media Release

Strathbogrie Sustainable Forest Group

No logging in Strathbogrie forest for 2 years

Such is the advice VicForests have given DELWP and the Environment Minister, the Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio. In May this year, DELWP released documents under FOI about Ministerial correspondence relating to Greater Glider conservation. In that correspondence, dated 3 Jan. 2017, DELWP advise the Minister that:

"Once harvesting in Parlours coupe is complete... VicForests has advised they have no plans to harvest further coupes in the Strathbogrie ranges within the next 2 years." (MIN023780 Item 11; page 17 of the FOI)

This is indeed good news and suggests VicForests acknowledges the importance of the Strathbogrie forest for Greater Glider conservation. Importantly, there is breathing space to allow consideration of how best to manage this important forest area. The Greater Glider has recently been listed as a threatened species, both by Federal and State Governments. It is Australia's largest gliding marsupial and has suffered significant population declines across its range, from Qld to Victoria. The Strathbogrie Ranges are a stronghold for the species in north-east Victoria.

The FOI documents make for extremely interesting reading, as they repeatedly mention the Strathbogrie Ranges and both the fauna survey and advocacy work undertaken by the Strathbogrie Sustainable Forests Group. But there are also very disturbing revelations in the FOI documents

Media Release 24 September 2016

Strathbogrie Sustainable Forest Group and Euroa Environment Group

VicForests' deceit angers Strathbogrie community groups.

VicForests claims that 'contractual obligations' are behind the need to log 27 ha of some of the best forest left in the Strathbogrie Ranges (Country News 21.9.16). In the same article VicForests stated that it notified community groups of the impending logging and that the sign nailed to a tree related to the safety zone area. These statements are completely misleading and border on deception, according to Strathbogrie Sustainable Forest Group spokesperson Fiona Townsend.

"The Group have been in discussion with VF and the Victorian Government about the 11 coupes/450 ha in question, for the past three years" says Ms. Townsend, "and VicForests had repeatedly stated that it had no immediate plans to harvest in the Strathbogrie Ranges". So for Mr. Trushell to state that VicForests "...did notify the community groups..." (Country News 21.9.16), is plainly misleading.

On 26th May 2014 VicForests wrote "While VicForests does not have any immediate intention to commence operations in the Strathbogrie area, we are committed to communicating our future plans to residents as soon as possible." (VicForests community letter)

On 19th November 2014 VicForests stated it "...had no immediate plans to harvest in the Strathbogrie Ranges and had not harvested in the area for some time" (Euroa

Modernisation of the Victorian Regional Forest Agreements

Submission by Save Our Strathbogrie Forest Inc. - July 6, 2019.

Summary

RFA's have comprehensively failed to deliver on all key outcomes and should not be renewed. State and Federal governments are out of touch when it comes to community views on forests. Fixing the RFA's, or doing away with them altogether, is an opportunity for change.

If RFA's are renewed:

- Logging in native forest should not be exempt from national environmental law.
- CAR reserve targets (shortfalls) should be fully met.
- Native forest logging should be 100% transitioned to hardwood plantations and recycled fibre.
- Management of native forests should have regard for all forest values and particularly climate change.
- Traditional Owner values and priorities should be embedded in native forest management.

1. What changes have you seen in the RFA regions?



Media release

April 3, 2016

CFA Volunteers for Forests

CFA volunteers call for a halt to this season's planned burns in Strathbogrie Ranges

CFA volunteers from local brigades in the Strathbogrie Ranges and nearby districts have banded together to form a new group calling themselves 'CFA Volunteers for Forests' to help campaign to save the Strathbogrie Ranges' last extensive stands of mature native forests from an unnecessary and destructive burn planned for this autumn.

"We are all committed CFA volunteers who have responded to hundreds of call-outs to fires and other emergencies over our years of involvement with the CFA", said spokesperson Andrew Townsend. "But, we also care about our local natural environment and we do not support DELWP's plan to burn 30 square kilometres of some of the best quality forest in the ranges. We are all part of this local community and as CFA volunteers we do not see any logic from a human safety perspective in burning these forests right now.

- The burn is too big
- The forest is too dry
- The risk of damage is too great
- We care about this forest

As members of CFA brigades surrounding the Strathbogrie Forest, the voices of CFA volunteers need 11th September 2016

Media Release

Strathbogrie Sustainable Forests Group and Euroa Environment Group

VicForests gives 'the finger' to local community and threatened species

After three years of discussions and meetings with the local community, VicForests has announced the imminent logging of a controversial coupe in the Strathbogrie Forest. The announcement occurred, not with a letter or email or even phone call, but by nailing a logging notice to a tree in the coupe and expecting locals to find it! It follows a lengthy campaign earlier this year by the Forest Group, Euroa Environment Group and Firefighters for Forests to halt a planned burn of more than 3000 hectares of the Strathbogrie's remaining forests which was ultimately re-negotiated with DELWP but at a high community cost.

The Strathbogrie Sustainable Forest Group has consistently argued for evidence-based decision-making regarding forest management in the Strathbogries. Spokesperson for the Group, Sim Ayres, says "There is not an extensive forest up here. What we have left after 150 years of clearing for agriculture and pine plantations is a small, quite fragmented forest, a forest that is under increasing threat, yet which still has amazing, magical hidden treasures that our community values and is prepared to fight for."

VicForests plans to log up to 10 coupes covering 450 ha in the heart of the Strathbogrie Forest. Sim Ayres again, "We're not opposed to logging and we've said that over and over, but we are totally

AUSTRALIA

START A PETITION BROWSE BERTRAM

SAVE OUR STRATHBOGRIE FOREST

PETITION CLOSED

This petition is now closed. You can still make a difference in the community by signing other petitions today.

65% OF NEW SIGNATURES COME FROM SHARING!

SHARE THIS

SEND A TWEET

MAIL FRIENDS & FAMILY

BERTRAM, YOU TOOK ACTION ON NOVEMBER 2, 2016

by Strathbogrie Sustainable Forests Group
target: The Premier, the Hon. Daniel Andrews and the Victorian...

8,484 SUPPORTERS IN AUSTRALIA

29,409 SUPPORTERS 30,000 GOAL

The Victorian Government and its logging business, VicForests, plan to log 450 ha of some of the highest quality and most beautiful forest left in the Strathbogrie Ranges, Victoria. The community knows the value of this

SUNDAY HERALD SUN

FEBRUARY 23, 2014

The Herald Sun welcome letters to the Editor -

Contribute your letter - <http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/opinion/letter-to-the-editor>
IN the next few weeks the State Government will make a decision which is likely to seal the fates of leadbeater's possums and Victoria's native forest timber industry.

The possum, a cute critter and since 1968 Victoria's faunal emblem, is in a bad way. No one is sure how many of them managed to survive the Black Saturday bushfires, which, according to official estimates, burned 45 per cent of the area kept for its protection and 34 per cent of its potential habitat. The State Government puts its numbers between 3750 and 11,250, which sounds dire, but is better than the earlier official estimate, which until its rediscovery in 1961 was zero.

Unfortunately for the possum, it shares its habitat with another endangered species, the native forest timber industry. Again, relying on official estimates, VicForests, the government-owned entity which manages the logging of the state's native forests, sources 70 per cent of its annual ash timber supply from within the range of the leadbeater's possum. More importantly, some say this area is the most — indeed some would argue only — profitable part of VicForests' logging activities.

In other words, saving the possum is unlikely to be compatible with saving the native forest timber industry. Like the possum, the native forestry numbers have been in steep decline too. According to Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences data, in the decade to 2012, annual native sawlog production fell by 45 per cent and pulp wood — the stuff that ends up in the chipper — by 30 per cent.

As for VicForests financial statements, the best that can be said for them is that they are not as bad as they used to be. According to its latest annual report, last year it took in \$104.5 million from the sales of forest products, with other income taking its revenue to \$106.3m. Alas, its expenses came to \$105.3 million, meaning all up, its net profit was only \$802,000 — which, while pretty dismal, is still better than the \$96,000 it lost the year before.

VicForests hasn't paid a dividend to the Victorian Treasury, i.e. the taxpayers, since 2007.

Indeed, it has only managed to pay a dividend twice since it was established in 2004. Across its eight years of existence it has reported an after-tax profit of only \$12.3 million. But even that you can take with a grain of salt, as over the same period it has received government grants of \$24.7 million.

Keep in mind too that VicForests can borrow money at subsidised rates from the Treasury Corporation of Victoria, whereas its private competitors, who grow trees on plantations, cannot. (Incidentally, its private competitors also have to pay for the land they grow trees on — and the council rates on that land — whereas VicForests does not.)

But as bad as these numbers are, the fact is they probably don't reflect the true losses to the taxpayer of continuing to log native forests. For starters it doesn't include the cost of fixing roads that logging trucks damage, nor the loss of water that disappears from dams and irrigation systems into regenerating forests after logging. Or more controversially, the cost of fighting the fires loggers sometimes start — something I predict we are likely to hear more about after this summer's events.

Getting back to the possums, Cabinet will soon consider a report from an advisory group which includes such possum-friendly folk as the boss of the Victorian Association of Forest Industries and representatives of VicForests, established to consider ways it can be saved "while maintaining a sustainable timber industry". The report has gone to Environment Minister Ryan Smith and Agriculture Minister Peter Walsh. What it says, we'll have to wait and see.

Government sources say that the two men take a different view of what should be done. Smith is believed to

support the creation of a Central Highlands National Park to save the possum, while Walsh is prepared to accept a small area be set aside to save the timber industry. His line of argument with his colleagues is expected to be that this is a jobs issue, which in an election year should trump other considerations. The Government claims the industry employs 2300 people, but it is unclear how many of those jobs depend entirely on native forestry, rather than a mixture of native and plantation timber. The largest employer, with 900 jobs, is the Maryvale paper plant, which has indicated in the past it would be happy to shift to chips from plantations. VicForests itself only employs 114 people.

Normally, the smart money would be on "Walshie" to get his way. The Agriculture Minister has earned a reputation for winning internal battles. In a Smith vs. Walsh fight it would be no contest. The wildcard, though, is Treasurer Michael O'Brien and his department. O'Brien is unlikely to be impressed with an industry whose subsidies are retarding the growth of the private enterprise plantation industry. The possum may yet triumph over the loggers.

james.campbell@news.com.au

EEG-e-bulletin mailing list
EEG-e-bulletin@eastgippsland.net.au
http://mail.eestgippsland.net.au/mailman/listinfo/eeg-e-bulletin_eastgippsland.net.au

18.3.16

Mr Murray Chapman

Bertram Lobert

Chair
Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority
PO Box 1752
Shepparton, Vic. 3630

164 Steens Rd
Boho South, Vic.

Dear Mr Chapman and Board members,

The Strathbogie Sustainable Forests Group wishes to draw your attention to the planned burns a timber harvesting plans for State Forests in the Strathbogie Ranges over the next three years – n urgently the planned burning of 3000 ha of State Forest this autumn.

The Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (GBCMA) Climate Change Adaptation Plan identifies 'intact' forests as priority areas in the Goulburn Broken catchment for semi-autonomous adaptation to climate change. The Plan notes that 'protective tenure arrangements' underpin the high adaptive capacity of many of these mountain forests. However, this is not the case for the 24th Jan, 2018

Steph Ryan
Member for Euroa
Deputy Leader of The Nationals

Dear Steph,

Our local community is deeply concerned about the Victorian Government's intention to log another section of the precious Strathbogie State Forest – this time a 65 hectare coupe at Barjarg Flat which contains mature forest, many large, old trees, some of the highest densities recorded in Victoria of the nationally threatened Greater Glider, and a population of the threatened Powerful Owl which is meant to be protected under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act.

We find it ironic that the Government's Biodiversity Plan launched in 2017 emphasised the importance of having a healthy environment to support a healthy society, and supporting regional communities, yet this government seems to be hell-bent on ripping the heart out of one of the last healthy patches of forest left in our region. Over the last three years, we have written repeatedly to the Premier, the Conservation Minister, the senior bureaucrats in the Conservation Department and to the Agriculture Minister requesting that a moratorium be placed on all timber harvesting in Strathbogie State Forest until a VEC investigation is undertaken to recommend appropriate use of the public land. The Government has refused to listen or act, however, despite its Biodiversity Plan

12.10.17

Emeritus Professor Barbara Evans
Convener, Scientific Advisory Committee

Dear Professor Evans,

Re: logging of Greater Glider habitat in Strathbogie State Forest

We are writing to you on behalf of the Strathbogie Sustainable Forests Group and Euroa Environment Group to alert you to plans by VicForests to log additional areas of high-quality Greater Glider habitat in the Strathbogie Ranges.

DELWP staff are currently undertaking research in the Strathbogie forest to develop improved detection and survey protocols for the Greater Glider. This is, in no small part, due to these forests being a regional stronghold for Greater Gliders. However, this research should not be used to justify the logging of high quality Greater Glider habitat in the absence of the statewide protections being developed through the FFG Action Statement.

We wrote to the Minister in August this year (attached) alerting her to VicForests' logging plans and requested a moratorium on all timber-harvesting in the Strathbogie Ranges for at least two years (as requested by VicForests) while VEC undertakes a public land-use investigation of these

Ms Christine Ferguson
Regional Director, Hume Region
Dept. of Environment, Land, Water & Planning
89 Sydney Rd, Benalla 3762

Dear Ms Ferguson,

As you know, our community group has been advocating for improved management of Strathbogie forests for some time. In Autumn 2015 many of our members contacted you and your Department to express concern about a planned burn undertaken in the Strathbogie Ranges – the Tames Rd planned burn of 521 ha, on 28th March.

At the time you advised us to discuss our concerns with Mr Lucas Russell (District Manager, Goulburn). Representative from our group met with Lucas, Brendan Purcell (Planning Officer, Hume Region), Neil Cleeland (Operations Officer) and Dan Pendavingh (Biodiversity Officer) on a number of occasions during 2015 to discuss our concerns. Despite lengthy discussions and visits to

25.3.19
Hon. Jaclyn Symes
Minister for Agriculture

Dear Minister,

VicForests has advised our group in the last two weeks that they have no plans to log any coupes in Strathbogie Forest this calendar year, 2019.

You are well aware of our group's repeated requests to your Department and DELWP to stop the logging of these forests and protect them for their many ecosystem services and biodiversity values. We are seeking confirmation from you that the Strathbogie Forest will not be logged this year. We furthermore seek a commitment from you and Minister D'Ambrosio to take this opportunity to progress the long-term protection of the forest, as requested by our community and by Strathbogie Shire Council.

For the record, we note that in Jan. 2017 VicForests advised DELWP and Minister D'Ambrosio that, once harvesting in Parlour's coupe was completed, they "... have no plans to harvest further coupes in the Strathbogie Ranges within the next 2 years." (MIN023780 Item 11, page 17 of the FOI). The Barjarg Flat coupe, which contained the highest detections of Greater Gliders recorded anywhere in Victoria, was logged by VicForests the following season!

17 Jan 2019
Minister for the Environment
The Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio

Dear Minister,

Congratulations on the return of the Andrews Government and on your retention of the important Environment portfolio. We hope to continue our constructive engagement with you and your office.

In your response (MIN047518) to our email of 17 August 2018, you encouraged us to engage with DELWP on your government's RFA modernization program and the broader Future of our Forests review. Representatives from our group will soon meet with Hume Region DELWP staff to discuss management of the Strathbogie Forest. Central to this discussion will be the role the Strathbogie Forest plays in the protection and management of the EPBC and FFG listed Greater Glider.

In 2017, after acknowledging the results of the citizen science surveys that confirmed high numbers of Greater Gliders in the Strathbogie Forest, DELWP conducted its own surveys of the forest and corroborated the citizen science findings. Moreover, the DELWP surveys

Premier of Victoria

18-11-2016

The Hon. Daniel Andrews

Dear Premier,

We write as members of three community organisations based in regional Victoria to ask you why it is so hard to protect our natural environment. Our groups are all based in and around the Strathbogie Ranges in north-eastern Victoria and we represent a community that cares so much about protecting its local environment that some of its volunteer fire-fighters last summer formed a new group called 'Fire-fighters for Forests' to stop your Government burning our last precious forests. This same group is also concerned that logging may add to the forest fire risk in what is shaping to be a high-risk season.

We have now all been dragged into fighting desperately with your government to halt logging of these precious forests, forests containing trees which are hundreds of years old, dense populations of the now nationally threatened Greater Glider possum and a top order predator, the FFG-listed Powerful Owl. Forests which will continue to sequester and store carbon if allowed to grow. Healthy, resilient forests are critical to mitigating the effects of climate change, yet that doesn't even rate a mention when dealing with your Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning, or VicForests.

The Managing Director
Murphy Fresh P/L
1098 Mansfield-Whitfield Rd
Mansfield, 3772

5 March 2014

Re: Sustainable forestry in our region

Dear Sir,

We are writing to you on behalf of members of the Strathbogie Tableland community and a newly-formed community action group 'Strathbogie Sustainable Forests Alliance'.

Ours is an umbrella group for the hundreds of individuals, community groups and local communities in the Strathbogie Ranges region, that are appalled by the way VicForests is planning to move industrial-logging into our forests.

On Saturday 22nd February, 150+ people packed the Strathbogie Memorial Hall to voice their concerns about VicForests' plans to expand logging operations in the Strathbogie State Forest, logging that we believe is largely driven by wood-chipping. At our meeting we had representatives from the communities of Strathbogie, Swanpool, Warrenbayne, Benalla, Violet Town, Euroa, Mansfield, Rubicon, Toolangi and beyond.

Nathan Trushell
General Manager, Stakeholders and Planning
VicForests, GPO Box 191
Melbourne, Vic. 3001

Strathbogie Sustainable Forests Group
C/- 164 Steens Rd, Boho South 3667

18th October 2016

An open letter to Nathan Trushell, General Manager, VicForests

Proposed logging of Parlour's Coupe in the Strathbogie Forest

Dear Mr Trushell,

Recent actions by VicForests and subsequent comments by you in the media have caused great distress and anger in the community. It is with some relief that we hear that VicForests has temporarily postponed the logging of Parlour's coupe, though this delay does little to address the underlying issues that concern the community. However, we do see the postponement as an opportunity for VicForests to review its position and procedures (see below).

On a number of recent occasions you, as VicForests General Manager, have made statements in the media that twist the truth. Most recently (Country News 4.10.16) you

Strathbogie Sustainable Forestry Group,
C/- Post Office,
Strathbogie, 3666
December 9, 2014

Hon. Lisa Neville
Minister for Environment, Climate Change & Water
Parliament of Victoria
Level 17, 8 Nicholson St
East Melbourne, 3002

Dear Minister Neville,

Congratulations on your appointment as Minister for Environment, Climate Change & Water in the new Victorian Government.

In the lead-up to the Victorian election our community group was very active in soliciting political support for better management of State Forest in the Strathbogie Ranges, in NE

Strathbogie Sustainable Forestry Alliance,
Post Office,
Strathbogie, 3666
October 31, 2014

Hon. Ryan Smith
State Minister for Environment & Climate Change
Parliament of Victoria
Level 17, 8 Nicholson St
East Melbourne, 3002

Dear Minister Smith:

We are writing to on behalf of the Strathbogie Sustainable Forestry Alliance. We are a group comprised of local interested residents, land owners, Landcare members and former local foresters. Our members are aligned with a number of local groups in the surrounding area plus a very wide cross section of the local community. This has been amply demonstrated by large attendances at community meetings.

The Strathbogie Sustainable Forestry Alliance is not opposed to logging *per se*, but we are very concerned about VicForests' plans for logging in the remaining areas of Strathbogie native forests. The area of concern is known as the Strathbogie State Forest and is bounded by the districts of Swanpool, Warrenbayne, Strathbogie and Rumbidgee.

5 July 2020

The Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio
Minister for the Environment

Dear Minister,

In November 2019, the Andrews Government nominated the Strathbogie Forest as one of several Immediate Protected Areas (IPAs) to protect the Greater Glider and a host of other natural values (DELWP 2019, Greater Glider Action Statement No. 267).

It was a pleasure and an honor for us that you made that announcement in the Strathbogie Forest and that you wanted to work with the community to protect the Strathbogie Forest in perpetuity.

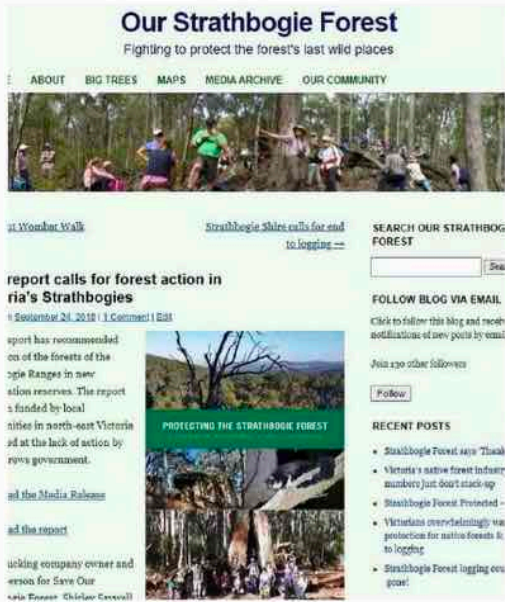
Following your announcement representatives of SOSF & Taungurung Land & Waters Council (TL&WC) discussed with then Deputy Sec. FFR, Lee Mieziis, the process by which the forest would gain permanent protection. Lee informed us that the process to permanently protect the Strathbogie Forest 'as part of the modernization of Victoria's Regional Forest Agreements' (DELWP 2019, Greater Glider Action Statement, Management Action 8) would take place in 2020.



Social media was crucial to the campaign



<https://www.facebook.com/Our-Strathbog-Forest-625175537556293/>



<https://strathbogsustainableforests.wordpress.com/>

A sample of our many community walks



PRESENTS... Mount Seldomseen

The Strathbog Sustainable Forests Group invites you to join us for a walk to the very little known Mt. Seldomseen. Walking through the enchanted Vale of Nedrick in the Reference Area of the Strathbog Forest to a picnic lunch with views up on high. A very special place held in high regard by those in the know!

"Walking Together in Respect of All"

When: Sunday 12th November
Where: Meet @ 12.00 pm, Strathbog Memorial Hall
What to bring: A picnic lunch, suitable clothing and footwear
Cost: Free

Easy to moderate walking conditions.
No Dogs Please
<http://www.strathbogsustainableforests.wordpress.com/>
Facebook: Our strathbog forest



PRESENTS... SANDY CREEK FALLS

With
Taungurong Elder Uncle Roy

The Strathbog Sustainable Forestry Alliance welcomes you to join us for a walk to the spectacular Sandy Creek Falls. Located in the magnificent Strathbog Ranges, Uncle Roy will be coming along and talk about country, bush food and story telling along the way.

When: Sunday 15th June 1.00pm
Where: Meet @ 1pm, Strathbog Memorial Hall
What to Bring: Good sturdy footwear and suitable clothing
Cost: Free

Site Level: Unmarked track, relatively steep and slippery at times.
No Dogs Please



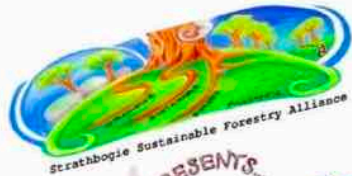
PRESENTS... Night Survey Spotlighting

The Strathbog Sustainable Forestry Alliance welcomes your help. Please come join us. We will be SPOTLIGHTING in an area around the corner of Bulging and Linn East road. See Cuddly Gliders, Koalas and maybe even the Powerful Owl and other important fauna in the Strathbog Forest Ecosystem. During the busy Friday nights of December. 18.00pm is the best time, so expect some late nights.

"Come and see Cuddly Greater Gliders and maybe a Glimpse of the Awesome Powerful Owl."

When: Every Friday night in December 2016
Where: We Meet @ 8.30pm Sharp for car pooling, Strathbog Memorial Hall.
What to Bring: Suitable clothing and footwear, binoculars and a good spotlight if you have one.
Cost: Free

No Dogs or Dogs Please
<http://www.strathbogsustainableforests.wordpress.com/>
Facebook: Our strathbog forest



PRESENTS... Spirit Rocks Story Time

The Strathbog Sustainable Forestry Alliance warmly welcomes you to come join us for a most enjoyable walk and an amazing magical tale. Told by Strathbogs very own Bard, Simona Ayres, herself. We will be walking in a magical place known by those in the know, as the Spirit Rocks. All this in our own backyard, the Magical Strathbog Forests.

"And so the story begins...A wise old King...a Heartless Giant... Six brothers and their brides, turned to stone... Sound familiar? Come find out what really happens!!!!"

When: Sunday 6th November 2016
Where: Meet @ 2.00pm Sharp for car pooling, Strathbog Memorial Hall
What to Bring: Suitable clothing and footwear.
Cost: Free

Easy walking conditions: Suitable for young and old.
No Dogs Please
<http://www.strathbogsustainableforests.wordpress.com/>
Facebook: Our strathbog forest



PRESENTS... Giants, Icons, Elders

The Strathbog Sustainable Forest Group invites you to join us on a Magical, Mystery Tour. We will carpool and then walk into some very special spots in our forest. Here we will connect with some of Natures Giants, Icons and Elders!!! All in our own Backyard.

Come and greet some of our most favourite trees in our Strathbog State Forest.
A Fun day out.
When: Sunday 20th August 2017
Where: Meet @ 2.00pm Sharp for car pooling, Strathbog Memorial Hall.
What to Bring: Suitable clothing and footwear.
Cost: Free

Easy walking conditions: Suitable for young and old.
No Dogs Please
<http://www.strathbogsustainableforests.wordpress.com/>
Facebook: Our strathbog forest



PRESENTS... A Trip to the Hippie Camp.

In the late sixties and early seventies our forest was home to a group of old hippies, rumour has it they lived in a series of caves on the side of Tels Mountain. Strathbog Sustainable Forest Group invites you to join us in an afternoon guided walk to hear their fascinating story. A fun and informative day out for the whole family.

When: Friday 2nd April 2017
Where: Meet @ 2.00pm Sharp for car pooling, Strathbog Memorial Hall.
What to Bring: Suitable clothing and footwear.
Cost: Free

LOVE



Moonee Moonee Range

The work continues in 2020 - forest assessments, old growth tree surveys ...



Giant Yellow Box trees where Wedge-tailed Eagles nest.



Wedge-tailed Eagle nest



Silvereye



Greater Glider



Sugar Glider

... nocturnal surveys, camera trap surveys .



Owlet Nightjar



Brown Thornbill



Snow Gum and Mountain Gum forest, Mt Tel.

Acknowledgements

What began as a desire for better forest management became a six year campaign to end native forest logging and gain permanent protection for the Strathbogie Forest. Many people made the enormous effort of not giving up in the face of entrenched vested interests and determined bureaucratic, administrative and political opposition.

The campaign created new bonds between locals and visitors and we all discovered aspects of ourselves, our friends and the forest that we hadn't known before. A variety of organizations provided encouragement, support and advice.

It took a lot of dedication, strategy and imagination to, finally, have all Strathbogie Forest coupes removed from the Timber Release Plan and logging excluded from the forest. The task ahead is to achieve permanent protection for the entire forest - promised by the Victorian Environment Minister in November 2019, but not yet enacted.

Special thanks to:

Australian Conservation Foundation
Environmental Justice Australia
Euroa Environment Group
Forest Community Group Caucus
Friends of the Earth
Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority
Rubicon Forest Protection Group
Save Our Strathbogie Forest members and committee
Strathbogie Landcare
Strathbogie Ranges Conservation Management Network
Strathbogie Shire Council
Swanpool Cinema
Swanpool and District Landcare Group
Victorian National Parks Association
Volunteer Firefighters for Forests
The Wilderness Society



SAVE OUR 
STRATHBOGIE
F  **REST**



