

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

PNF Review

I make two points only.

The whole idea of assessing the volume of a stand and measuring what volume can be taken needs a re-think.

Firstly, It is not only time-consuming, but impractical. In wet sclerophyll forest the understory is usually so dense that such measurements are impossible.

Secondly, experienced logging contractors, once aware of the requirements of sustainable logging, are quite capable of using their commonsense. True, some loggers may need a little on the job training.

A couple of years ago we had a logging crew on our place at Billys Creek for over 12 months and one or two inspections by me, early in the piece, confirmed that they knew exactly what they were doing and understood what was required. The EPA were aware of the particular team and also had confidence in them.

I found other requirements such as not logging within 500 metres of where you saw a Black Stripe wallaby as not adding to the credibility of those involved in setting out the regulations.

I found the EPA in Grafton very helpful with regard to developing a PNF PVP.

Initially, an areal photo designated an area as 'old growth'. I queried this and they came out promptly, did an inspection and confirmed that it did not fit the 'old growth' criteria. I found them thorough, objective and professional.

The whole concept of 'old growth' reserves as a means of preserving biodiversity also needs a rethink.

While the link between biodiversity and 'old growth' sounds positive, biodiversity could be equally well or even better provided for by small areas of special significance easily identified and located by GPS. This would avoid locking up significant areas of productive forest. Part of Ellis State Forest on the western side of our property has a very large area right down the middle designated 'old growth'.

I believe the concept of 'old growth' is not only artificial but suspect, and should be scrapped and replaced by conservation areas which are truly representative of biodiversity or have some unique features.

Why is the designation 'old growth' suspect? Because the reasons for its promotion appear to go beyond both science, and common sense. There are those who would use it as a means to further restrict logging of the remaining native forests [ie those have survived re-designation as national parks]. Further to that, behind the scene Marxists have a strategy of tying up resources as part of an overall plan of white-anting Western societies. For them, encouraging the safeguarding of environmental resources is not an end in itself, but a means to an end. The means may be green but the end is red.

My wife Margaret also received an invitation to provide feedback [sent to [REDACTED]]. She is ill at present, but her contribution would be similar to that above.

Yours sincerely, *Jim Wilson*

James Wilson. [REDACTED]