FORESTRY ALONG THE NORTHERN COASTLINE AND HINTERLAND OF NSW

Pho Jimmy Malecki
Highly industrialised harvesters can clear 200 HA a month

Multiple machines per catchment implement harvest plan objective ‘destroy non merchantable species’; bare earth for Blackbutt regeneration
Objective: Blackbutt regeneration

a vast Blackbutt dominated landscape from Central Coast to Qld border

The NEW native forest (native forest smashed with only seed trees left Blackbutt) joins up with the new plantations, *i.e.* recovered ecosystems up to 60 years old recently clear felled being planted to Blackbutt now

BORAL favours Blackbutt for woodchip and pulp wood engineered products
NSW Govt / BORAL wood supply agreement another 12 years

2003 review confirms compensation to BORAL in event lack of supply

NSW govt and BORAL addressing this year’s lack of supply now

I believe BORAL intends to trade off $$$ compensation for lack of supply this year (and next 12 yrs)

with a deal that could extend BORAL access to NSW forests beyond 12 years
We are witnessing the conversion of north native forests into a vast single species dominated landscape.

DPI plantation unit okaying clear fell of regrown native forests 60-70 years old deeming them plantation

Adjacent native forests severe cut (up to 95% removal) with only Blackbutt seed trees left.
NEW native forest regrows as Blackbutt dominated compartments

The dots are joining up – PLANTATION Blackbutt joins NEW native forest Blackbutt **

To become one vast northern NSW plantation – a single species dominated landscape – a psuedo plantation

** in some places the species might vary
HOW IS THIS HAPPENING?
Australian Group Selection (AGS) clear fell of native forest
Thinning is done with very big machines
Historical plantations clear felled with very big machines

Single Tree Selection (STS) almost clear fell of native forest compartments between the clear fell compartments

STS removal limit supposed to be 40%. OFFSETS and varying definition of an operational area mean almost any native forest becomes available OFFSET area

SO NSW Forestry is clear felling or almost clear felling whatever they want from wherever they want to get the wood for BORAL contract
AUSTRALIAN GROUP SELECTION
Looks like this clear fell operation in Blackbutt Road Lorne
THINNING composite demonstrates impact of native understorey destruction - weeds
PLANTATION HARVESTING  AGS CLEAR FELL
Compartment 113 Upsalls Creek Road Lorne 15/7/2011
SINGLE TREE SELECTION
Compartment 110 Lorne
Only some of the forests logged in the last year.

Twice as many last 2 years?

How many last 3?
Only some of the forests logged in the last year

Twice as many last 2 years?

How many last 3?
Broken Bago Single Tree Selection in process
Compartment 82 Trail 1
LORNE Compartments 109/110 Single Tree Selection

Several ridgelines, 8 kilometres of cut, either side of mountain
LORNE Compartment 91
several km of cut continues along multiple ridgelines and extends down steep slopes often beyond rainforest exclusion zones to within 5 metres Black Creek.
The forest cut you see on mountain opposite is a different compartment.

Single Tree Selection
LORNE Compartment 91 This is what happens beyond the ridgelines that you can see - frequent breaches of licencing conditions - tree marking rainforest and creek exclusion pushed over
And a bulldozed track extends at least 100 metres only to end at the creek having smashed canopy and destroyed soil and understorey for 3 trees. LORNE Compartment 91
Lorne Compartment 93 Trail 3 - 4 km from road descending progressively into the darkest valleys
LORNE Compartment 93 Trail 3 - veering off when it suits from the operational area into rainforest gullies to grab an extra tree or two – paid by volume
Total canopy removal and soil disturbance means easy germination for Camphor Laurel not previously established in these compartments.
KEREWONG Compartment 136 Trail 2 – Down from ridges heavily cut by STS 1.5 km on all sides of mountain. Abutting rainforest margin non merchantable rainforest species of endangered ecological communities are deliberately destroyed in known threatened species habitat Sooty Owl /Stuttering Frog

After 3 months Camphor Laurel is growing well where canopy removed area and has moved 40 m into the rainforest and creek exclusion zone
LANSDOWNE FOREST Pipeclay Creek Road
Approx 5 km valley clear felled to historical plantation harvest
LANSDOWNE  Pipeclay Creek Road
expanding a plantation area burn an endangered ecological community 1 metre from a creek – no-one is monitoring
LANSDOWNE  Pipeclay Creek Rd, 1 metre from the creek
LANSDOWNE  Up the road from the plantation being established, adjacent to national park, Single Tree Selection where everything goes but Blackbutt Seed Trees
LANSDOWNE native FOREST re-growing after Single Tree Selection, an even aged single species stand of Blackbutt. This is not plantation. This is the new native forest.
Upsalls Creek Forest - McLeods Rd multiple ridgelines one after another clear felled. At max, 20 m drainage lines remain across sub-catchments. Wrong trees inside though so not even a partial refuge for some of the newly homeless.
Lorne Cpt 113 - new – on the right as you come into Swan’s Crossing
Lorne Compartment – and more on the right as you come into Swan’s Crossing
Lorne Compartment 106 – this STS will join up with plantations opposite and several km of plantation felled on the adjacent mountain last September
Another historical plantation getting the clearout... a few football fields in size, adjoins rainforest but in places loss of 40 metres protection for that and 4th order stream... because exclusion zone breached
A strip of an endangered ecological community separates the two areas, this one larger, about 25 hectares.

Blackbutt Rd harvest

Photo Jimmy Malecki
North Coast Wedding Bells Forest

Photo: jimmy malecki
WHAT I WITNESSED CLEAR FELLED OR ALMOST CLEAR FELLED IN 1 YEAR
If this is unsustainable can’t it be stopped?

“There is no clause in current wood supply agreements for high quality large sawlog on the north coast that allows for a non-compensable reduction in commitment following a review of available timber resources. This clause was removed when the Government renegotiated wood supply agreements in 2003 following the ‘icon’ decision.

Resource reviews were a key risk management tool for Forests NSW which is no longer available under wood supply agreements for large logs.”

Auditor General Report, April 2009, p.43
But this is unsustainable, and it must be stopped

People, all of them, must demand of their government representatives, state, federal both to buy back the contract and control of their native forests. After all this contract, as with the one in Tasmania is losing taxpayers tens of millions a year, killing wildlife, eroding soil, polluting waterways, creating irreparable weed infestation and destroying our carbon sink - rapidly
References:


4. Forest Agreement For Lower North East Region, NSW Government, 1999