

# FORESTRY ALONG THE NORTHERN COASTLINE AND HINTERLAND OF NSW





**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*

/ 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



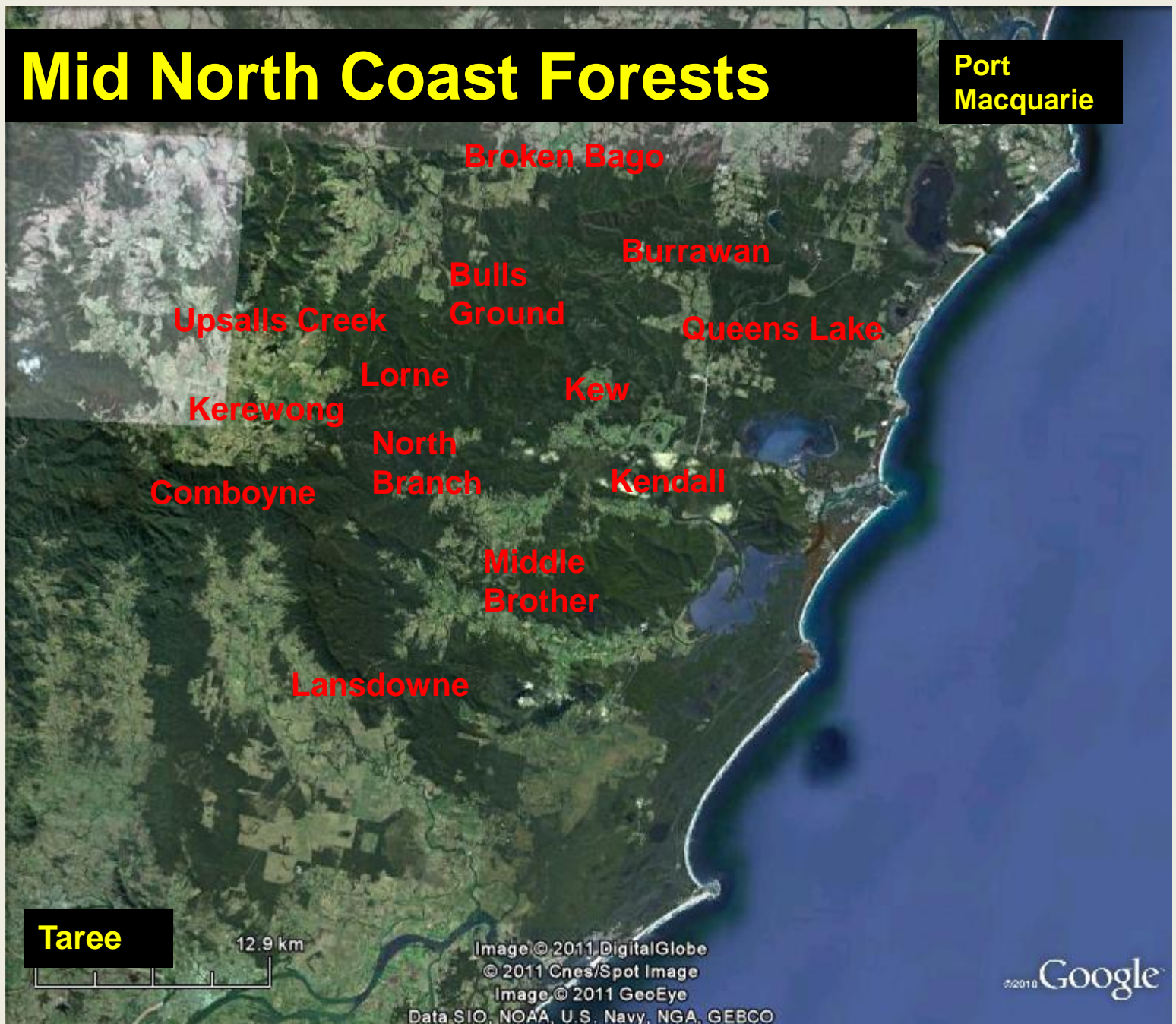
15/07/2011



Only  
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logged in  
the last  
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Twice as  
many  
last 2  
years ?

How  
many  
last 3 ?



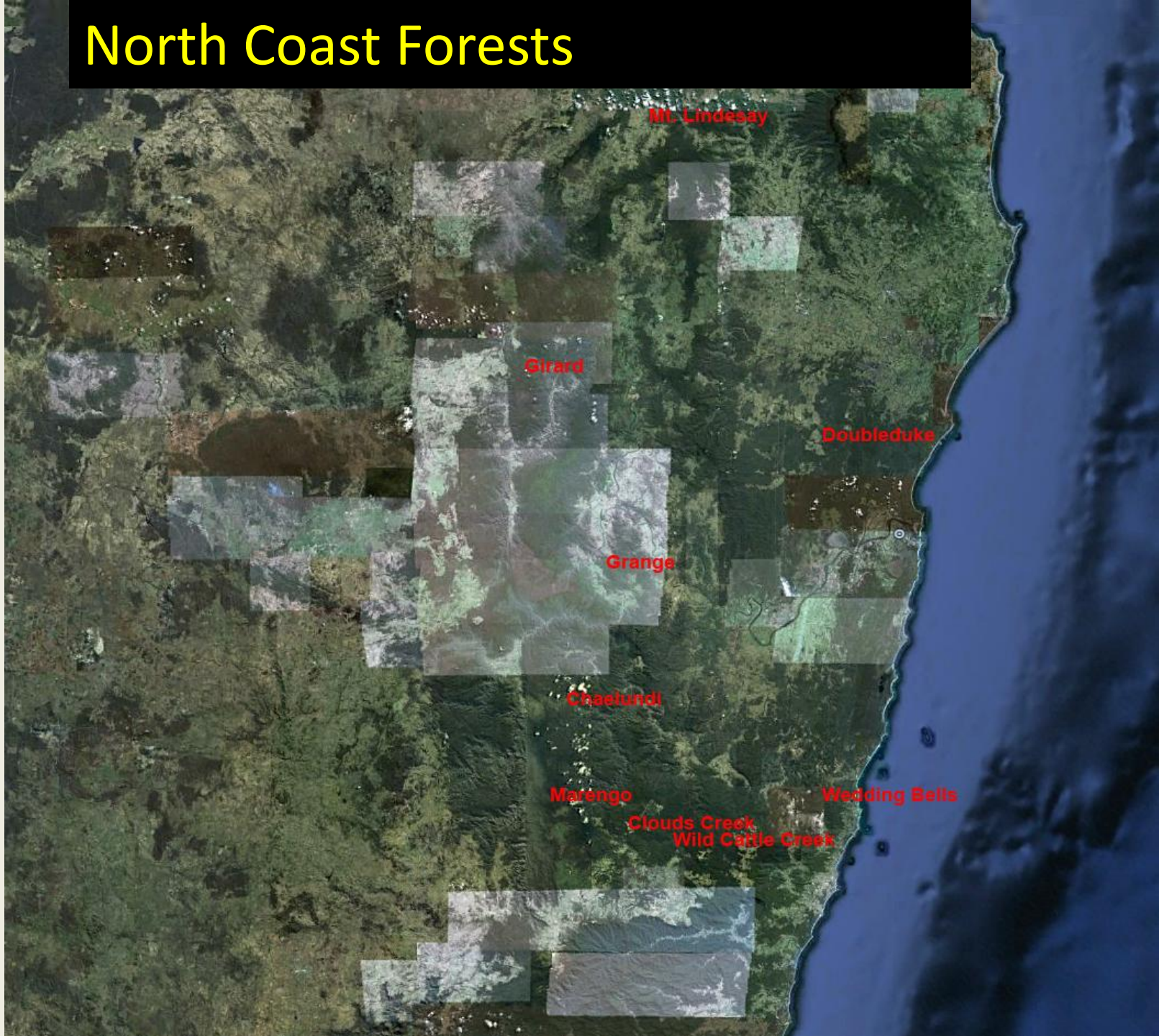


# North Coast Forests

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# Broken Bago Compartment 82 Trail 1





# 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

16/07/2011



## LORNE Compartment 91





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





## LORNE Cpt 93 Trail 3



Total canopy removal and soil disturbance means easy germination for Camphor Laurel not previously established in these compartments



# Kerewong Compartment 134 Single Tree Selection





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.



Photo Jimmy Malecki



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



16/07/2011



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 4<sup>th</sup> 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*





# North Coast Wedding Bells Forest



Photo: jimmy malecki



# North Coast Wedding Bells Forest



Photo: jimmy malecki



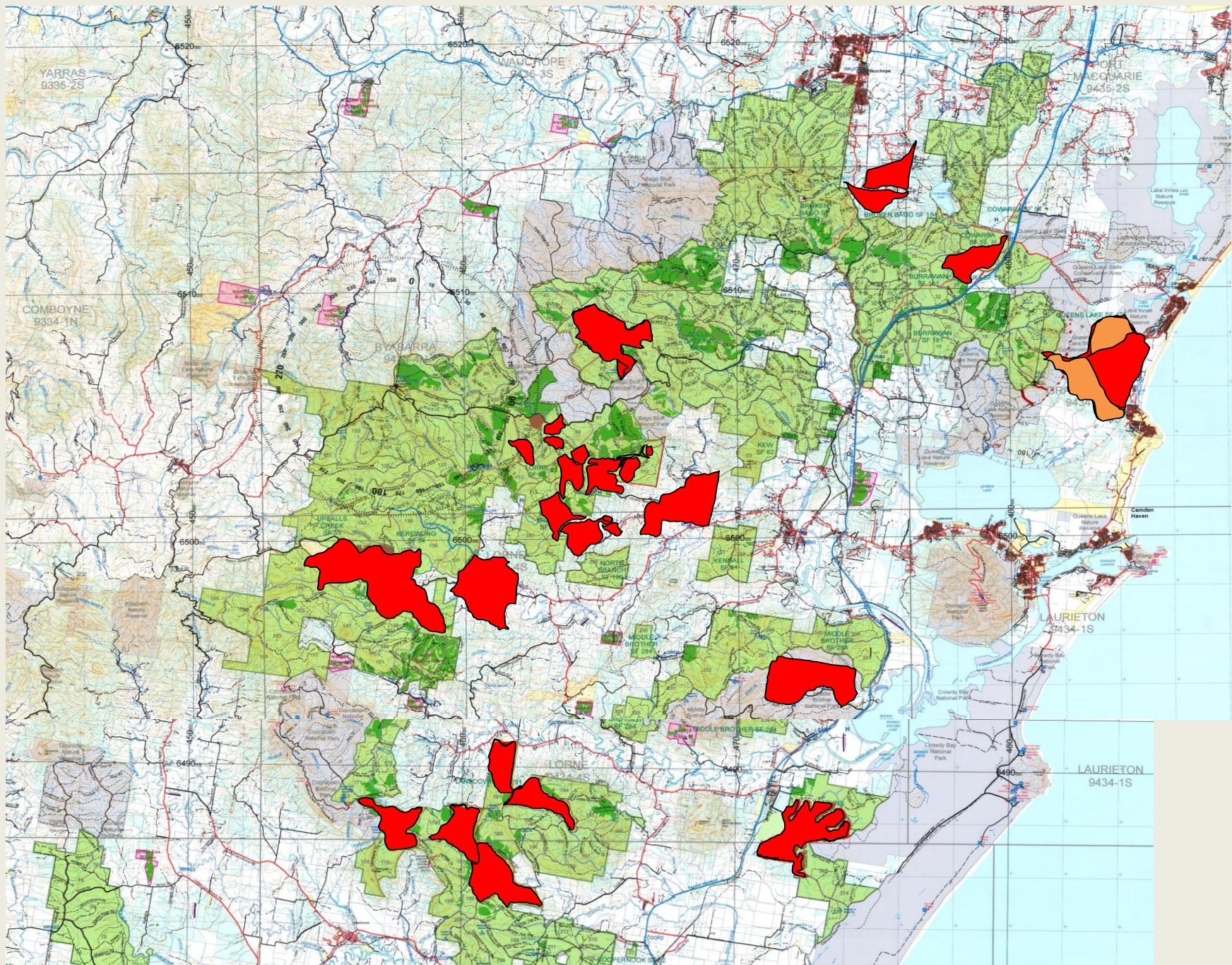
# North Coast Wedding Bells Forest



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:

- 1. Sustaining native forest operations : Forests NSW / [The Audit Office of New South Wales]. (Performance audit) April 2009**
- 2. Steve Hartley - Manager, Crown Forestry Policy and Regulation, Dept. Environment, Climate Change and Water, Personal Communication, April 2011**
- 3. *Audit of Compliance of Forestry Operations in The Upper North East NSW Forest Agreement Region.* Prepared by Dailan Pugh for the North East Forest Alliance, January 2011**
- 4. Forest Agreement For Lower North East Region, NSW Government, 1999**
- 5. Terms of Licence Under The Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995, Lower North East Region, NSW Government, 1999**