



CHIPSTOP campaign against woodchipping the SE forests, PO Box 797 Bega NSW 2550
Australia, <http://www.chipstop.forests.org.au> chipstop@forests.org.au
*Between 2,500 and 3,000 trees from SE NSW and East Gippsland are cut down every working
day to supply the Eden chipmill*
CHIPSTOP on YouTube <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3CmofsL8xhg>

Hon Peter Garrett MP
Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Minister

I am asking you to intervene to stop logging of Bermagui State Forest
Compartment 2002 which commenced last Thursday 10th September.
There are two reasons for this:

1. **Swift Parrot.** This is listed as an endangered species under the
Commonwealth Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act.
One thousand of these parrots were sighted feeding on flowering spotted gum in
this forest in July during their northern winter migration.

In spite of this there has been no meaningful prescription applied to protect the
swift parrot from the consequences of the logging.

All the signs are that there will be NO extra trees saved for the parrot. While the
Harvest Plan says that 5 trees per ha will be marked as swift parrot feed trees,
no habitat trees of any kind have been marked so far and there is no symbol in
the Harvest Marking Code for the swift parrot. Even if these issues are rectified,
there is nothing to stop Forests NSW doubling up with other retained trees and
claiming multiple purposes for them. This would mean no net extra trees saved
for the parrot.

Forests NSW Regional Manager, Mr Ian Barnes confirmed to me this morning
that this is likely.

2. **Littoral Rainforest** . Under the EPBC Act littoral rainforest is a threatened
ecological community. There are numerous fragments within the logging
compartment such as the Bermagui forest lilly pilli walk which may qualify for
protection as a member of this ecological community.

"Littoral Rainforest and Coastal Vine Thickets of Eastern Australia- *A nationally
threatened ecological community*" recognises littoral rainforest at Bournda (just

south of Tathra) as belonging to this community. The Bermagui lilly pilly patches are very similar and I believe they are equally deserving of protection. This publication does not claim that the examples given are exhaustive. Indeed, it makes it very clear that there are others worthy of protection.

<http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/publications/pubs/littoral-rainforest.pdf>
I refer in particular to this extract:

"If a patch of the listed ecological community is present, then continuation of supportive land use and practices is vitally important if it is to persist for the benefit of future generations.

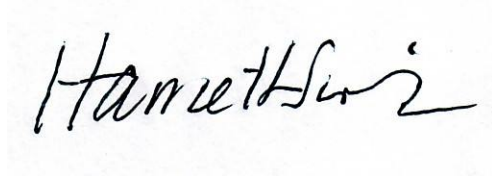
The listing of the Littoral Rainforest and Coastal Vine Thickets of Eastern Australia under the EPBC Act will not prevent land managers from continuing to use land in the same way they were before, providing that they do not significantly change or intensify their activities (and the activity is lawful).

National protection means any new or intensified activities that may have a significant impact upon one or more patches of the listed ecological community should be referred to the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts for assessment and approval."

"New or intensified activities" would surely have to include logging.

These two matters are clearly within your ministerial responsibility and I ask that you act urgently to stop further destruction of this forest.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Harriett Swift". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, stylized 'H' and a long, sweeping tail.

Harriett Swift
14 September 2009