

I have lived in the Bega Valley for 10 years. I was always attracted by the stunning native forest and incredible biodiversity of this corner of South East Australia. I continue to be dismayed that our state and federal governments see fit to spend taxpayer funds supporting an entirely unsustainable industry. My work has me traveling throughout the valley and I have observed first hand logging coops that quite simply result in absolute destruction as a result of modern logging practices. I have also met and talked with people who are long term residents of the valley and they too are quite dismayed with the way in which forests are no longer managed but rather taken with no concern for future use. It almost seems that the industry realises it's future is limited and that there is no point attempting to manage for the future. The Australian and NSW government need to accept that Forestry NSW does not have a viable business model without government subsidies. They need to understand that this will only become increasingly politically difficult to support when it makes no fiscal sense to continue doing so. This is regardless of governments attempts to reframe burning native forests for electricity generation as "green renewable energy". I only hope that there is someone left in politics that is not burdened by too many obligations that a realistic reassessment is made to the RFA.

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