

**From:** [Jenny & Michael Ellwood](#)  
**To:** [\\_ALL-EPA-Forestry-IFOARemake](#)  
**Cc:** [Wendy Grimm](#); [Barry Lees](#)  
**Subject:** Discussion Paper On The Remake Of The Coastal IFOAs  
**Date:** Tuesday, 29 April 2014 3:04:27 PM

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Dear Sir/Madam,

I am very concerned about the changes proposed in the NSW Government discussion paper on the remake of the Coastal Integrated Forestry Operation Approvals. Together the proposed changes represent a substantial reduction in environmental protection and a serious threat to our native forests, wildlife and water courses.

Removing the requirement to conduct pre-logging surveys for threatened species and habitat features will place those species at risk. Surveys for threatened plants and animals, and the identification of required exclusion areas, need to be undertaken independently of the Forestry Corporation.

The prohibition on logging on steeply sloping land has been in place for decades. Removing this important environmental protection will increase soil erosion and water pollution, promote weed invasion and threaten wildlife corridors.

It is very disturbing that the NSW Government have sought advice on forestry regulation from the Tasmanian Forest Practices Authority. The logging industry in Tasmania has a deplorable track record on forest management.

Also the discussion paper does not adequately address important factors in maintaining forest health over time, including management of invasive weeds and forest dieback. I am very strongly opposed to the proposed changes and call on the NSW Government to abandon this poorly considered plan to weaken protection for our native forests and wildlife.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Ellwood  
Conservation Officer  
Australian Plant Society, North Shore Group