
Supporting South East Timber Association submission on private native forest review

1 message

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To: pnf.info@ils.nsw.gov.au

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I write in support of the SETA submission.

Over many years of observation and research I have reached the conclusion that many of the regulations surrounding our native forests are based, not on scientific evidence, but on assumptions. We have taken for granted that forests are ancient, yet when we delve into historical records we find that the early explorers described open plains and park-like woodlands where today we have dense bushland and, as the studies of Bill Gammage, Vic Jurskis and others reveal, there is plenty of documentary evidence to support the view that forests are over-protected. Many of them actually invaded open areas that had been patiently maintained over perhaps thousands of years by aboriginal "firestick farming" as first discussed by Edward Curr (*Recollections of Squatting in Victoria*) and more recently by Bruce Pascoe (*Dark Emu* and other works).

What really needs to be reviewed is our understanding of how the indigenous pioneers managed what Bill Gammage called "the biggest estate on earth." One wonders how different the history of our continent might have been had the first inhabitants followed the same edicts and proclamations that now govern our actions.

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