

The Institute of Foresters of Australia

ABN 48 083 197 586



2 September 2006

ABC
Audience and Consumer Affairs
GPO Box 9994
Perth WA 6848

Dear Sir or Madam

We support Mr Roger Underwood's call (dated 8th August 2006) for an independent appraisal of the Stateline segment titled "Quokkas under threat from logging in the Southwest" on 4th August 2006.

The public native forests of Western Australia are managed by the Department of Environment and Conservation according to the Forest Management Plan. This conforms to the principles of Ecologically Sustainable Forest Management and has been subject to extensive scientific review and public consultation. The forests are managed to provide a wide array of benefits including conservation of flora and fauna, high quality water, timber, gravel, honey, recreation and fire protection all in a sustainable manner according to best practice. The Forest Management Plan ensures that steps are taken to protect all the values of the forest while realizing some of the products and social benefits from harvesting continue to be provide in the public interest.

It is inappropriate for the ABC to lend credibility and support to a local group who have not accepted the over-arching Forest Management Plan which identified their "back yard" as one area (of a greatly reduced suite of areas) which could be harvested. We are satisfied that the Department of Environment and Conservation and the Forest Products Commission have a track record of managing these operations sensitively and with minimum risk to any threatened habitat.

It would be more appropriate for the ABC to support science based forest management recognizing the achievements of forest managers over the decades in conserving and protecting the forests from clearing for mining and agriculture, fire, pests and diseases and fostering successful plantation developments to supply increasing proportions of the community's timber and fibre requirements. Conservation has included development of a more than adequate conservation reserve system as well as maintaining the timber production forests' habitat, catchment and recreation values.

Yours sincerely

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