



# Media Release

## Letter To The Age (060606)

To *The Age*                      June 6<sup>th</sup> 2006    (*Not published*)

The focus of Sunday's World Environment Day rally on 'saving' Victoria's forests demonstrated a serious lack of understanding about logging and how it relates to global warming.

As logging is already excluded from around 90% of Victoria's forests, including most 'old growth' forest, it is hardly a significant environmental problem. On the contrary, the current level of timber harvesting has substantial environmental benefits.

It counteracts global warming by storing hundreds of thousands of tonnes of carbon in hardwood products and post-logging regrowth each year. In addition, the availability of hardwood timber reduces demand for substitutes such as steel and concrete that emit substantially greater volumes of carbon in their manufacture. Local timber production also reduces demand for tropical rainforest imports whose freight entails significant carbon emissions.

Due to a lack of hardwood sawlog plantations, 'saving' Victoria's production forests would close the local hardwood timber industry and thereby remove these global warming benefits. This would be counter-productive to improving environmental outcomes.

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