

The Institute of Foresters of Australia

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Letter to the Editor (171203)

The Age

Mr McFadzean's attack on foresters is quite unjustified (the Age 15/12). He may well prefer the Wilderness Society to be managing forests but Australians rightfully demand a broader level of expertise to manage our valuable forests for multiple requirements of biodiversity conservation, water protection, timber production and from a bushfire management perspective.

What should be acknowledged is our forested land requires sound management to protect the values of conservation reserves and multiple use forests. Most frequently it is foresters who have the expertise to balance frequently competing demands and expectations from our forested landscape.

Whether logging is a significant factor in bushfire control is immaterial to the larger issue that bushfires are a major threat to rural Australia whether logging is present or not.

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