



# HOT TOPIC FORESTRY/THE ENVIRONMENT

## No simple solutions to wicked problems

IN response to Jennifer Sanger's "Protecting our forests is crucial" (Talking Point, July 9), while we can certainly agree that appropriate conservation of forests is crucial to the future health of our communities and the planet, there is no scientific evidence to support the claim that native forest logging is Tasmania's No. 1 climate issue.

While Sanger references her report, which has not been scientifically peer-reviewed, to support this statement, Forestry Australia bases statements on peer-reviewed science, official government data, and the decades of field experience of Australia's forest scientists and management professionals.

Tackling climate change is the wicked problem of our generation. There are no simple solutions to wicked problems. Our best chances of achieving a holistic solution to climate change include focusing on reducing emissions across all sectors, using renewable resources sustainably and actively managing all forests appropriately to ensure diversity and resilience.

For many reasons this is a complex task, but could be achieved through supporting, not restricting, our capacity to manage forests.

Forestry Australia is a not-for-profit, independent professional association for forest scientists, managers and growers. We work to promote credible science-based discourse and respectful discussion around forest issues.

**Dr Michelle Freeman**  
Vice President, Forestry Australia

### BENEFITS OF HARVESTING

Dr Jennifer Sanger's misrepresentation of Tasmanian native forest wood production as a huge "emission" that exacerbates climate change (Talking Point, July 9), is at odds with the world's foremost authority on this topic.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (the IPCC), views na-



A giant eucalypt tree in Tasmania's iconic Styx Valley.

tive forest wood production as a valuable tool for mitigating climate change.

Its 2007 Fourth Assessment Report noted: "In the long term, a sustainable forest management strategy aimed at maintaining or increasing forest carbon stocks, while producing an annual sustained yield of timber, fibre or energy from the forest, will generate the largest sustained (carbon) mitigation benefit."

On whether it would be better to turn all Tasmanian forests into parks and reserves that exclude wood production, the same IPCC report said that: "... stopping all forest harvesting would increase forest carbon stocks, but would reduce the amount of timber and fibre available to meet societal needs. Other energy-intensive materials ... would be required to replace wood products, resulting in higher Greenhouse Gas emissions".

There should be no dispute that sustainably harvesting wood from our native forests is good for the climate.

**Mark Poynter**  
Port Huon

### NEED TO EVOLVE

Will Tasmania be left behind?

Or will we seize the opportunities in future forestry?

As Dr Sanger points out (Talking Point, July 9), native forest logging is the highest carbon-emitting sector in Tasmania.

The evidence in Dr Sanger's Forest Carbon report is supported by IPCC author Professor Brendan Mackey and Dr Heather Kieth from Griffith University in the ABC fact check "the true mitigation value of native forests resides in their ongoing capacity to sequester and store carbon".

As the world moves to a low carbon future at an increasing pace, will the Tasmanian forestry industry see the writing on the wall for native forest logging and evolve to more productive, lower emissions forestry practices?

With our generations of foresters, Tasmania is blessed with extraordinary expertise in forest management.

The choice and challenge for our forest managers now is whether they

secure forestry jobs for future generations, or stick with the old high carbon-emitting forest practices that will condemn their industry to the inevitable crash we are seeing in some coal mining communities.

**Sheree Mackinnon**  
Ranelagh

### GREED EVIDENT

Ex-newsreader Jo Palmer's statement that we should stop seeing the oceans as "victims" reveals all we need to know about the Liberal view of natural resources: they exist to be pillaged and to make money.

The so-called "trial" of open-net farming in the Bass Strait is not a trial at all.

It is, as far as the state government is concerned, just the start of a major opportunity to allow multinational, rapacious companies to pollute our water and harm our tourism while they ship super-profits overseas.

**Alan Kemp**  
Petcneys Bay

### POSITIVE THINKING

Humanity could certainly benefit from more positive narratives around climate change.

Saul Griffith's gargantuan scale "electrify everything" solution provides exactly the vision that we need ("Big switch, only thing that stacks up". The Mercury, July 12).

Electrification is realistic, achievable with readily available technology, economically viable, and will reduce costs of living, provide health benefits, and improve our energy security.

Saul Griffith believes Australia is ideally placed to lead the world in the green electrical transformation.

That should spark some engagement from us all.

**Amy Hiller**  
Kew, Victoria