

BEGA MP, ANDREW CONSTANCE BIGGEST BENEFICIARY OF LOGGER DONATIONS

Figures released this week by the Australia Electoral Commission show that NSW Member for Bega, Andrew Constance MP was the biggest single beneficiary of logging industry donations of any NSW candidate or MP in 2010-2011.

In 2010-11, Mr Constance received \$2,500 from the NSW Forest Products Association. His party, the Liberal Party received \$30,480. Other Liberal and National MPs received varying amounts between \$480 and \$1500.

Commenting on the release of the disclosures this week, forest campaigner, Harriett Swift, convener of the Chipstop Campaign said that she was not surprised that Mr Constance had been treated so generously.

"I am sure that the FPA will consider it has had value for it money," she said.

Mr Constance has been one of the strongest supporters of the logging and woodchipping industry in the State Parliament.

He has resisted every attempt to reform the native forest logging industry and curb its destructive impacts on the environment.

He has urged it on to ever more destructive expansion into wood fired electricity generation and wood pellet production under the misleading guise of "renewable energy."

"I am amazed that an industry that is struggling to survive can afford such generous donations," Ms Swift said.

The figures can be viewed at:

<http://periodicdisclosures.aec.gov.au/Donor.aspx?SubmissionID=48&ClientID=29031>

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