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Voters warned to expect a barrage of fake news from the logging industry in Eden-Monaro election campaign

Conservationists are alerting Eden-Monaro voters to expect a barrage of fake news from the logging industry in the coming election campaign.

The logging industry lobby group, Australian Forest Products Association (AFPA) has just nominated Eden-Monaro¹ as one of its target electorates.

Spokesperson for the South East Region Conservation Alliance (SERCA), Harriett Swift is warning voters: "Be prepared to hear grossly inflated job figures and wildly exaggerated figures on claimed economic benefits of the woodchipping industry and over use of terms like *sustainable* and *carbon positive*."

"We are suggesting that voters take these claims with a very large grain of salt," Ms Swift said.

"After almost 50 years of woodchipping, Eden-Monaro has a shameful record in threatened species. Only 4 other electorates in Australia have more threatened species dependent on them for their survival.²

"It is interesting that AFPA has chosen electorates which are strongholds of native forest logging rather than plantations. The others to be targeted are also native forest logging strongholds: Braddon (Tas), Bass (Tas), Lyons (Tas), Longman (Qld) and Gippsland (Vic)."

"The irony is that in inland parts of Eden-Monaro there is a strong plantation industry whose future is being held back by native forest logging.

"Native forest logging is heavily subsidized and has ruined the social licence of the whole industry.

"The more Governments prop up the native forest sector, the more they harm plantations," she said.

Ms Swift said that the industry's own research last year³ showed that almost 70 percent of people across all States want to see an end to native forest logging.

"Candidates who respect public opinion will not be influenced by a big spending campaign from the loggers' lobby group," Ms Swift said.

¹ http://ausfpa.com.au/media-releases/politicians-will-need-to-grow-your-future-if-they-want-forest-industry-votes/?fbclid=IwAR1SoPDBYbZCjZSY-SpQt4UHf3BeLeJo5ggg_fEDQpJRIMMnLM-VqAGtPc

² <https://theconversation.com/just-ten-mps-represent-more-than-600-threatened-species-in-their-electoral-districts-83500>

³ Forest and Wood Products Aust. Community perceptions of Australia's forest, wood and paper industries. August 2018

MEMBER ORGANISATIONS OF THE SOUTH EAST REGION CONSERVATION ALLIANCE

Bega Environment Network	National Forest Embassy
Chipstop	National Parks Association, Far South Coast Branch
Colong Foundation for Wilderness	Potoroo Palace
Forest Media	South East Forest Rescue
Friends of Five Forests	Southern Forest Watchers
Friends of the Forest	Stop Arms Fairs in Eurobodalla
Great Southern Forest	The Coastwatchers Association Inc
Gulaga (Mt Dromedary) Protection Group	

ORGANISATIONS WHICH ENDORSE THE PRINCIPLES OF THE GREAT SOUTHERN FOREST

Australian Association of Bush Regenerators	Lawyers for Forests
Australian Earth Laws Alliance	Montreal Goldfield
Australian Forests and Climate Alliance	Mulong
Australian Plants Society	My Environment
Australian Rainforest Conservation Society	National Parks Association Far South Coast Branch
Australian Wildlife Society	National Parks Association of the ACT
Bega Valley Greens	National Trust NSW
Better Planning Network Inc	Nature Conservation Council NSW
Beyond Zero Emissions	North Coast Environment Council
Clean Energy for Eternity Inc	NSW Bird Atlassers Australia Inc
Conservation Council ACT Region	NSW Wildlife Council Inc
Conservation Council of South Australia	Potoroo Palace
ecospecifier global	SCPA South East Producers
Elm Grove Sanctuary Trust	SEE-Change, Society, Environment & Economy
Environment East Gippsland	South East Region Conservation Alliance Inc
Environment Victoria	Stop Arms Fairs in Eurobodalla
Far South Coast Birdwatchers Inc	The Wilderness Society
Forest Media	Threatened Species Art Competition
Four Winds	Total Environment Centre
Friends of Leadbeater's Possum	Trees for Life
Friends of the Earth Australia	Uniting Eco Group
Friends of the Koala Inc	Western Australia Forest Alliance
Global GreenTag Pty Ltd	Wildlife Rescue South Coast
Green Music Australia	
Healesville Environment Watch Inc	