



## Letters to The Editor

<http://www.canberratimes.com.au/news/opinion/letters/general/threats-to-wildlife-from-timber-harvesting-are-negligible/1383495.aspx?storypage=0>

## Threats to wildlife from timber harvesting are negligible

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Recent letters to the editor expressing concern about timber harvesting in Bermagui State Forest appear to be based on exaggerated and inaccurate statements by Senator Bob Brown rather than on facts.

I am sure that your correspondents will be pleased to learn that the situation is not nearly as serious as they have been led to believe.

Bermagui State Forest has been harvested several times over the past century. The most recent harvesting occurred about 20 years ago when some of the trees were removed to supply local sawmills.

The current harvesting operation is similar to past harvesting, with some (not all) of the trees being removed for sawmilling. As in all timber harvesting operations, there will be some poor quality wood that is not suitable for sawmilling. Rather than leave this wood in the forest where it would inhibit regeneration and become a fire hazard, this wood will be chipped to produce fine papers for writing and photocopying.

The threats to wildlife and to rivers from timber harvesting are negligible.

Forests NSW operates under a strict harvesting code of practice which complies with all environmental laws, ensuring that wildlife is protected and that soil disturbance is kept to a minimum.

Buffer strips of unlogged forest are also retained along all rivers and streams to further minimise the risk to watercourses.

Claims that Bermagui Forest will disappear within weeks are simply untrue. The removal of some trees will open up the forest, releasing the retained trees from competition.

After another 20 years or so, there will be another crop of trees available for sawmilling. This process can continue in perpetuity, with much of the carbon from the harvested trees locked up in timber products for many decades and the new forest absorbing more carbon from the atmosphere.

Forestry is one of the most renewable and sustainable industries in Australia.

Far from being part of the climate change problem, it is part of the solution.

Jim Adams, chief executive, Timber Communities Australia, Deakin

<http://www.tca.org.au/index.shtml>