



South East Forest Rescue

Stoppin' the Choppin'

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Mr Andrew Mattes,
Acting Manager, Crown Forestry Policy and Regulation,
Dept. Environment, Climate Change and Water.

10/5/10

RE: BREACHES OF EDEN IFOA-TSL, MUMBULLA SF, CPT 2135

Dear Andrew,

On Sunday 9/5/10 SEFR conducted an audit of Mumbulla SF compartment 2135 and found the following breaches of the Eden region IFOA-TSL. All coordinates are AGD 66 datum.

BREACH 1:

5.11. Rocky Outcrops and Cliffs

- a) *Specified forestry activities are prohibited within areas of rocky outcrops and cliffs.*
- b) *In addition, exclusion zones of at least 20 metres wide must be implemented around all rocky outcrops more than 0.1 hectare (approx. 30m x 30m), and all cliffs.*
- c) *Exclusion zones of at least 40 metres wide must be implemented around all rocky outcrops more than 0.5 hectare.*

(Note: it is not intended to exclude SFNSW from all areas that have a scattered or stony or rocky ground cover. Only those areas where rocks and exposed boulders cover greater than 70% of at least a 0.1 hectare area. Those areas that fall within the definition of Rocky Outcrops and Cliffs are considered to contain likely habitat for threatened flora and fauna.)

An unmarked rocky outcrop approximately bounded by the following points, A 0756439,5948237, B 0756443, 5948202, C 0756468, 5948208, D 0756472, 5948232 that is greater than 0.1ha was found. No exclusion zone was marked and there were several stumps in this zone. Machinery had also driven onto the outcrop and several trees were cut on the outcrop. Photo 1.

BREACH 2:

D. PROTECTION OF DRAINAGE FEATURES

DRAINAGE FEATURE PROTECTION FOR NATIVE FORESTS

6. Filter strips must be retained along all drainage lines, prescribed streams and watercourses and must have a minimum width in accordance with Table 1.

Table 1: Minimum filter strip width for mapped and unmapped drainage lines, prescribed streams and watercourses in native forests (metres - measured along the ground surface).

<i>Stream Order</i>	<i>Inherent Hazard Level 1</i>	<i>Inherent Hazard Level 2</i>	<i>Inherent Hazard Level 3</i>
<i>Unmapped</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>1st order</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>2nd order</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>25</i>
<i>3rd order or greater</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>30</i>

BREACH 3:

OPERATIONS WITHIN NATIVE FOREST FILTER STRIPS

17. Trees located in a filter strip must not be felled, except for the purposes of constructing a road, extraction track or snig track crossing.

BREACH 4:

18. Trees must not be felled into filter strips.

At point E 0756478, 5948252 a marked unmapped drainage line was found with pink tape located only 8m from the centre of the UDL. Inside the exclusion zone were 3 fresh stumps. The largest stump was only 4m from the centre of the UDL and had leaves placed on top of it to try and conceal the fresh cut. This is a serious breach as it shows that either the contractors or SFO or both new that what they had done was a breach and tried to cover it up. Photos 4, 7

At point F 0756477, 5948275, debris was located over the exclusion line. A tree in the exclusion had been snapped in half by a tree felled into the exclusion. A tree inside the exclusion zone had also been pulled out and the stump left in the zone. Several pink exclusion tapes were lying on the ground near this area.

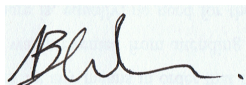
At point G 0756497, 5948301 we found machine disturbance in what we think should have been a UDL exclusion zone. This is next to an area that has been classed as a drainage depression that has been used as a snig track crossing.

With the amount of scrutiny on these compartments one would think FNSW would try to adhere to all license conditions. What is becoming apparent is FNSW's blatant disregard for these conditions.

SEFR again calls for an urgent investigation by DECC into this breach and the other recent rocky outcrop breaches that have been reported. SEFR also requests that after DECC's audit a meeting in the field with SEFR occurs. Thank you for investigating these breaches in the context of your ongoing regulatory activities and we await your response.

Yours

L Stone



S. Daines