

## Woodchipping is destroying our mature native forests.

- The driver of native forest destruction in SE Australia is industrial logging for export woodchipping, mainly to Japan.
- The Eden chipmill cannot process waste wood, such as the crowns, branches or butts, which are a by-product of saw logging.
- It can only chip whole logs. The “waste” is burned in the forest.
- Much of this mature native forest is being “managed” into rapidly growing, even-aged, regrowth usually dominated by a single species to suit the needs of the chipmill and the paper industry.
- Such forest cannot sustain the regulated water supply into streams and lakes that we need and expect.
- To add insult to injury the woodchips are exported to Japan at a giveaway price.

## We DO have a choice.

- There are other sources of fibre for making paper including sugar cane, hemp and plantation timber as well as recycled materials.
- The logging industry can now be transferred from native forests to plantation timber.
- Our local catchment forests are far too valuable to be logged. Few rivers on the Far South Coast of NSW have avoided damage from the logging already carried out.
- Catchments have become dried out after their forests were woodchipped.
- Instead of increasing pumping power and building more dams, we could extract more water from catchments simply by ending logging in these areas.

**We must protect what exists now, fix up damage from the past and ensure that the scarce water supply, collected for us by our mature native forests, continues and is passed on to the next generation.**



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## WHAT HAVE FORESTS GOT TO DO WITH OUR WATER SUPPLY?

Every day Eurobodalla residents expect, without fail, good quality water from their taps. Recent experience with a prolonged severe drought has reminded us that this supply is not guaranteed, and that the quality of our water can be lowered markedly.

**Water is collected for us by the forested catchments of the Tuross and Moruya Rivers and to a lesser extent from the Buckenboursa River. It is then pumped either directly to our homes and businesses or stored in Deep Creek Dam.**

Only clear water can be pumped, when the river water is carrying a lot of sediment (is turbid) it cannot be used. If the water flowing in the rivers becomes turbid after a good rainfall, the pumps cannot be operated even though this is the time when the volume of water available for pumping is greatest.

### **Mature forests collect our water and purify it.**

- Most of the freshwater available for our use is stored in catchment soils.
- Undisturbed natural forests absorb rain into the soil, where it is filtered and purified and gradually released into the waterways.
- Even when it is not raining in a catchment, the water in the river or stream continues to be produced by a natural ecological process.
- Stream flow is maintained by the slow release of the stored soil moisture directly into creeks and rivers.
- The water flowing from this process during dry periods is critically important to ensuring the continuous water supply we all depend on.

### **Logging threatens our water supply.**

#### **Water quantity:**

- When forests are logged, the amount of water flowing in creeks and rivers, after a short initial increase, can decrease by up to 50%. It may even cease to flow in dry periods.
- Young trees (planted or regrowth) need much more water to grow than the mature trees that were logged.
- It will take decades, maybe even over a hundred years, to get back to the quantity of water that was flowing before logging.

#### **Water quality:**

- Forestry machinery compacts soil, preventing absorption of rainwater. When it rains the run-off carries a lot more sediment into streams.
- Movement of this machinery and other vehicles along forest roads raises a large volume of dust (30 -90 tonnes per year for every hectare of unsealed road, compared to 0.3 tonnes for unsealed roads in undisturbed forests).

**Logging our forested catchments increases the severity of floods (causing damage to property and increased siltation) and droughts (leading to suspension of irrigation and town water restrictions).**

### **Eurobodalla State Forests are not allowed to grow to maturity.**

- 23% of the Shire forests lie in National Parks situated in the upper reaches of our rivers.
- These forests will be left undisturbed and will therefore protect the quantity and quality of the water supply.
- The problem lies further downstream where 49% of our Shire's forests – managed by Forests NSW – are open to intensive logging and silviculture practices.
- Management practices in local State Forests are resulting in an ever increasing area of mature native forest being clear-felled and replaced by young forests in the highly water demanding, vigorous regrowth stage.
- This regrowth is not left long enough to reach the mature stage that would enhance and protect our water supply.

### **Forests as water collectors have a huge economic value**

- A 1999 the ATECH Group released a report on the Shoalhaven, Clyde, Moruya and Tuross Rivers. The amount of water that would be lost by the logging of 2000 hectares of native forests in these catchments in one year was estimated to be over \$10 million. This amount would accumulate each year that catchment forests continued to be logged.
- The average annual flow in these four rivers was estimated to be worth \$800 million.
- The collection of water by our mature native forests has been estimated to be worth FIVE TIMES the amount of money we can make from using them to produce wood.
- A study in 2003 by the World Bank and the World Wide Fund for Nature also found that conservation of forested catchments is the CHEAPEST way to collect clean water, even for big cities.
- Acknowledging the value of the water collection and water storage services of our mature forest makes a lot of economic sense.

**However, State and Federal governments still allow logging of our forested catchments while charging us high water rates, and urging us to use less water.**