

## The madness of cable logging

The Baird government/Forestry Corp has identified thousands of hectares of excessively steep land within our publically owned native forests in the upper catchment areas of the Nambucca, Bellinger, Kalang and Orara rivers, as being suitable for cable logging, saying, at first it would only be a trial but would be expanded if successful.

This steep, erodible country has been 'off limits' to logging for many years, due to past incidents of massive erosion, sedimentation of our streams and landslips following our normal intensive rainfall over summer. The trees on these steep slopes literally hold the country together. A forested catchment generates clean and abundant water, provides homes for our native wildlife, including the many forest-dependent threatened species such as the koala. Furthermore, with climate change getting a grip, a mature forest stores carbon, contributing to the solution of this major problem.

Tourism, including international tourist numbers, will grow and sustainably add to our economy if we keep the natural values of our region intact and cared for. Cable logging of the forested backdrop to our coastal towns would be ugly, damaging and unacceptable vandalism of a rich natural asset – our publically owned native forests.

We call on the Baird government to make the protection of our up-river public native forests a bi-partisan issue and to abandon their crazy and destructive cable logging plan.

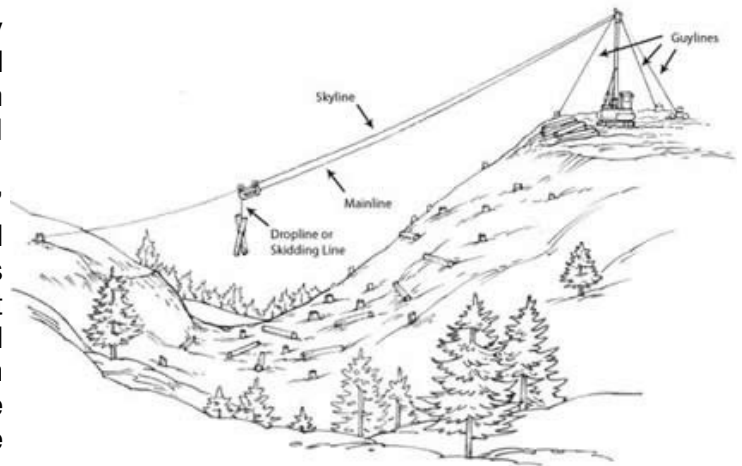
- Lyn Orrego, NVCA Forest Working Group Leader

## What is Cable Logging

Cable logging is a set of techniques where felled trees are extracted from the forest by carrying or dragging them out with heavy cables and winches. It is an efficient way to extract timber from clear felled areas where all the trees have been cut down.

It is a dangerous, inefficient and expensive way to extract single trees from selectively logged areas. It is the only way to extract timber from slopes that are so steep that bulldozers will roll over.

The technique that Forestry Corp wishes to 'trial' is known as 'Standing Skyline'. A specialised track mounted machine, known as a yarder, is set up on the ridge top. It has a 10m tower that is guyed to trees (or preferably stumps) behind it. A heavy steel cable, the skyline, is run downhill through the bush and attached to a tree (or stump) at the edge of the rainforest or on the creek bank up to 500m down slope. A flying fox car is lowered down the skyline by another winched cable from the yarder. A third cable runs from the yarder through a pulley on the flying fox and down to the ground. Trees are felled and headed, then the log is attached to the ground cable, dragged across the slope until they are under the fox, and hauled up the slope. If the curves of the slope and skyline allow, then the log may be elevated off the ground as it is hauled up. When the 50 metre wide strip is logged out, the cables are recovered, the yarder moves 50metres along the ridge and the process is repeated.



## Why they want to do it?

The native forest timber industry in North East NSW is in crisis. Hardwood timber use is declining due to competition from native and exotic plantation timbers. Simultaneously, the supply of high quality hardwood sawlogs is also in steep decline due to decades of deliberate over-cutting. Forestry Corp estimate that the cable logging 'trial' area could yield 50,000 cubic metres per annum to bail themselves and the industry out for just another 7 years.

What happens then? Which protected forest will be wanted for the next bailout? Steep private land? National Parks?

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## Why they must not be allowed to do it!

From white settlement to the 1960s the coastal forests of NE NSW had been mostly logged from the bottom up. Initially the cedar was cut out, then lowland forests were logged and cleared for agriculture, and logging moved up into the slopes of the hinterland. With the coming of reliable chainsaws and bulldozers the Forestry Commission was able to construct networks of roads up into the steep foothill and escarpment country and to push snig tracks down and across steep slopes to access uncut areas. That brief era produced lots of timber, killed and injured lots of workers, ruined the ecological values of lots of bush, and produced an erosion and sedimentation nightmare. It was recognised by more enlightened land managers that this could not go on. Rules were introduced to ban logging on slopes over 30° and roading on slopes over 25°. Those rules are still in force today. Forestry Corp and the industry now want to scrap them. - *Tim Thorncraft, NEFA (North East Forest Alliance) coordinator for Mid North Coast.*

## NVCA reconvenes its Forest Working Group

Our campaign opposing steep land cable logging and to protect koalas and other forest dependent threatened species will continue. NVCA has set up a Forest Working Group to focus on these issues and the intensification of logging in our public native forests.

Let us know by email if you would like to help, get your name on the list to be notified of our upcoming events and field trips. - *Lyn Orrego, NVCA Forest Working Group Leader*

## Policy shift signals end of logging in 2018

*The end of industrial logging in publicly owned native forests by mid-2018, their management for long-term water yield and carbon storage and the completion of the 'world class' forest reserve system are three of the key goals of a revised policy statement Forests 4 Ever, issued today by the North East Forest Alliance (NEFA).*

"The first of these is a major change in our policy. We cannot now support more industrial logging of our publicly owned native forests, nor can we accept demands that approvals be 'rolled over' for another 20 or more years," NEFA spokesperson, Mr John Corkill, said today.

The revised position is significant because it calls for a phase out of all logging of publicly owned native forests in the north east region of NSW by mid 2018 and explicitly rules out any extension or renewal of a Regional Forest Agreement or Forestry Operations Approval beyond that date.

"In 1989 and again in 1998, NEFA agreed that logging of State forests could continue if key conditions were met. Two conditions crucial to our support for logging were that effective environmental protection measures would be put in place, and enforced, to ensure logging did not create significant harm to the environment; and the industry would move to become 'ecologically sustainable'. Regrettably, neither of these conditions have been fulfilled. A third key condition was that a world class forest reserve system would be created. While major progress was made through the creation of new national parks a proper reserve system still has not been completed and key forest areas required as reserves still need protection from logging," he said.

"Our audits of logging operations over the past 5 years have found a widespread and intentional failure to implement legal requirements to reduce impacts on threatened species, endangered ecosystems, and streams. Our attempts to get the Environment Protection Agency and their political masters to ensure compliance have failed. We are now told that after the election the Government will weaken protection measures, allow widespread clear-felling and introduce cable-logging on extremely steep slopes. We can not condone this," said NEFA co-ordinator Dailan Pugh.

"Climate Change is already affecting our forests, native species and us. The easiest thing we can do to respond to climate change is to stop logging of public lands. This will avoid emissions and allow the recovering forests to take up and store significant volumes of carbon. Rather than taxpayers paying millions of dollars every year to prop up unsustainable logging the NSW Government should use carbon credits to generate a profit from our public forests," Mr Pugh said.

"In our view our publicly owned forests, must be allocated to their best and highest uses, in the public interest, over the long term, and this is not more logging. These higher uses include storing carbon, protecting biological diversity and increasing water yield," said NEFA co-ordinator Susie Russell.

"With a broken governance framework for industrial logging of public native forests in NSW, and no basis for confidence in Forestry Corporation, NSW EPA or ministers in enforcing compliance with environmental protection conditions, we have no choice but to call for an orderly wind down of the logging industry, in the long term public interest," said Ms Russell.

The *Forests 4 Ever* policy statement, adopted recently after months of consideration, and a range of background information, are available on the new NEFA web-site: go to [www.nefa.org.au](http://www.nefa.org.au)

- *NEFA Media Release, February 2015.*

## Election is over but we must now keep up the momentum, says NCC

Now the noise of the election is over, the work really begins. NCC has kept a record of the key promises Premier Mike Baird made in the election campaign and we hope you'll join us to make sure this term of government rises to the challenges facing our iconic wildlife and natural places.

**Coal and coal seam gas** - Just weeks before the election our combined pressure led the government to cancel 12 CSG exploration licences. That's a great start but CSG is still a threat to the beautiful Pilliga forest, the Manning Valley near Gloucester, and to the local residents of Camden. The government was largely silent on coal mining which threatens to replace the habitat of animals like koalas, or displace the community of Bulga in the Hunter Valley. NCC is as committed as ever to defend our land, water and environment from destructive mining that will change our landscape for ever.

**Marine** - Both major parties took a position of increasing marine protection to the election. We must now hold Mike Baird to his commitment to protect our iconic marine life in Sydney. The government also promised to listen to the community's wishes when it comes to sanctuaries – if you want our marine sanctuaries restored, the government said they will do it. When Mike Baird first became Premier in 2014, he declared that marine protection was a priority. Now it's time to finish the job for marine life like colourful reef fish and turtles, and for our own coastal lifestyle.

**Wildlife and forests** - There's a long way to go to protect our threatened species and their homes. The government pledged a lot of money to save threatened species, however that good work could all be undone if they follow through on their announcement to repeal the *Native Vegetation Act* and replace it with a new law. It will come down to us all working together to make sure our wildlife like the koala gets stronger, not weaker conservation laws.

The election's done and dusted, but NCC won't forget the commitments Premier Baird made over the last few weeks, but we'll need your help to turn his words into action.

There's a lot to be learnt from this election campaign and Margaret Mead's quote comes to mind, "*Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has*". - Kate Smolski, CEO, Nature Conservation Council, [nccnsw.org.au](http://nccnsw.org.au)

## Funding restored to community legal centres but not EDOs

Federal Attorney General, Senator George Brandis, has announced the restoration of \$25.5 million in funding to Legal Aid Commissions, Community Legal Centres and Aboriginal Legal Services, but expressly excluded EDOs from his decision.

"There is no basis to distinguish between EDOs and other community legal services delivering access to justice. In fact, the Attorney General's decision contradicts recent recommendations of the Productivity Commission to restore EDO funding in light of our critical role in protecting public health and matters of national environmental significance."

The funding cuts have greatly reduced environmental legal services to communities across Australia, with offices in the NT, ACT, South Australia, Tasmania and North Queensland particularly affected.

"Without the expert legal services provided by EDOs, many Australians could not afford to get advice about their rights or challenge major development projects which threaten the environment, public health, endangered species, productive farmland, clean air and water supplies, Indigenous traditional lands and other cultural heritage." - Jess Feehely, Environmental Defenders Office, Tasmania.

**NVCA Membership Renewals** - Membership of the NVCA for 2015 was due in February. For your convenience a Renewal Form is printed on the last page, please fill in your details and return it to the Secretary.

To those members who have already paid their membership fees, and for the generous donations, thank you for your promptness and generosity. - Wendy Wedge (*Memberships*)

## NVCA Fees can be paid electronically

**BCU members** doing a funds transfer will need to quote the *Account No.:* 53152 and S1  
*Account Name:* Nambucca Valley Conservation Association Inc.

*Reference:* Your initials and surname.

**Transferring funds from another institution** you will need to quote the *BSB No:* 704328;  
*Account No:* 53152 (**no S-type**); *Account Name:* Nambucca Valley Conservation Association Inc. and  
*Reference:* Your initials and surname.

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## CHANGE to NVCA MEETING DAY and TIME

The NVCA has changed its meetings from being on the second Friday of each month to the

**Second Tuesday of each Month at 10am - we continue to meet at the 2NVR studios at Tewinga.**

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## Caltex to contribute \$120,000 to Environmental Programs after oil spill

Caltex has entered into an enforceable undertaking with the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) to provide \$120,000 to local environmental programs after a water pollution incident at its Kurnell refinery.

During heavy rain on 24 March 2014, oily water was discharged from the refinery into Botany Bay. Caltex estimated that the spill included between 200 and 400 litres of oily material, mixed with more than 3 million litres of clean cooling water and an unknown quantity of storm water.

The EPA said Caltex has put preventative measures in place to ensure that a similar incident does not happen in the future following heavy rain.

Caltex will contribute \$5,000 to the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) for the Discovery program for school students, \$35,000 to NPWS Catchment and Beach/Dune Rehabilitation and Habitat Restoration Project; \$50,000 to Sutherland Shire Council for the Marton Park Wetland Rehabilitation Project and \$30,000 to Randwick Council for the Discover your Coast Program.

The refinery ceased to operate in October 2014 and now operates as a fuel terminal. It remains licensed by the EPA.

- [www.edonsw.org.au](http://www.edonsw.org.au)

## Call to extend dredge dumping ban

The Australian Network of EDOs (ANEDO) has called for the Federal Government's ban on dredge dumping to be extended to the entire Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area (GBRWHA), not merely the marine park (GBRMP).

In its submission to the Federal Government's draft Regulation Impact Statement on the ban, ANEDO also called for an extension of the ban on dumping of dredge spoil to include maintenance dredge spoil.

It has been estimated by environment group WWF that, since 2010, over 80% of dredge spoil has been dumped outside of the GBRMP but within the GBRWHA. Modelling commissioned by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and the federal Environment Department demonstrates that dredge spoil plumes travel much farther than previously thought.

- [edonsw.org.au](http://edonsw.org.au)

## New phone app to report littering from vehicles

People tossing rubbish from their vehicles can now be fined based on verified reports from the public under a new system introduced by the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA).

Litterers from vehicles face minimum fines of up to \$250, which came into effect from 1 March following a month-long amnesty since the EPA introduced the new public reporting system for littering from vehicles on 1 February 2015.

Since 1 February, more than 700 people have registered to use the new reporting system and the EPA has received more than 600 reports of littering. Go to <http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/litter/from-vehicle.htm> to download the app.

- [epa.nsw.gov.au](http://epa.nsw.gov.au)

## Beyond Sustainable

We live today in an age of sustainababble, a cacophonous profusion of uses of the word sustainable to mean anything from environmentally better to cool. The original adjective - meaning capable of being maintained in existence without interruption or diminution - goes back to the ancient Romans.

Its use in the environmental field exploded with the 1987 release of Our Common Future, the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development. Sustainable development, Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland and the other commissioners declared, "meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

For many years after the release of the Brundtland Commission's report, environmental analysts debated the value of such complex terms as sustainable, sustainability, and sustainable development. By the turn of the millennium, however, the terms gained a life of their own - with no assurance that this was based on the Commission's definition. Through increasingly frequent vernacular use, it seemed, the word sustainable became a synonym for the equally vague and unquantifiable adjective 'green', suggesting some undefined environmental value, as in 'green growth' or 'green jobs'.

Today the term sustainable more typically lends itself to the corporate behaviour often called 'greenwashing'. Phrases like sustainable design, sustainable cars and even sustainable underwear litter the media. One airline assures passengers that "the cardboard we use is taken from a sustainable source," while another informs them that its new in-flight "sustainability effort" saved enough aluminium in 2011 "to build three new airplanes." Neither use sheds any light on whether the airlines' overall operations - or commercial aviation itself - can long be sustained on today's scale.

- Extract from a lecture by Robert Engelman, President of the Worldwatch Institute. [www.sustainabilitypossible.org](http://www.sustainabilitypossible.org)

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## 2015 NVCA MEMBERSHIP FORM

### **Member Details:**

Name/s:.....

Address:.....

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Phone No: .....

Email Address: .....

Your area of Expertise or Interest: .....

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I would like to be on the e-list:  YES  NO

*The e-list enables members to become more personally involved in local conservation matters by receiving information on upcoming submissions and petitions.*

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### **Membership Options:**

Single \$8  Family \$12  Group \$18  Donation \$.....

I/We enclose the following amount:\$.....

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### **Please assist by ticking one or two boxes below.**

*The more of us sharing the load, the lighter it is for us all, the more fun we have, and the better the environmental outcomes.*

I/We would like to volunteer for **occasional** assistance with:

#### **The Serious Stuff:**

Submissions  Campaigns  Surveys  Surprise Me!

I am very busy but please put me on the "Ring and Ask Me At The Time" List.

#### **The Fun Stuff:**

Market Stall  Garage Sale  Annual Dinner  Food Fair  Cooking

I am very busy but please put me on the "Ring and Ask Me At The Time" List.

I/We would like to volunteer skills in: .....

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*I have read the NVCA Aims and Objective and The Constitution of the NVCA (see page 6) and I agree to abide by these.....*

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*Please mail to:* The Secretary,  
Nambucca Valley Conservation Association Inc.  
PO Box 123,  
Bowraville, NSW, 2449

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# THE CONSTITUTION of The Nambucca Valley Conservation Assoc.Inc.

Reviewed and adopted 28 October 2005

## 1 CONSTITUTION

The Nambucca Valley Conservation Association Inc. (NVCA) has adopted the Model Rules for Incorporated Associations, as set out by the New South Wales Department of Fair Trading, in accordance with the Association Incorporation Act (1984), Regulation 1985, Clause 10, with the following additions:

- 1.1 The office bearers of this Association to be President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, with a minimum of two and maximum of four committee members.
- 1.2 The executive of this Association to be President or Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and at least one committee member.
- 1.3 A quorum of this Association shall consist of three executive members and two ordinary members.
- 1.4 Annual membership to be set for single, family and group and be reviewed at each Annual General Meeting.
- 1.5 That each member signs an Application for Membership of the Association, binding them to abide by the objectives and operating protocols of the Association.
- 1.6 The executive of NVCA reserves the right to refuse or terminate membership.

## 2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 To respect the natural environment and its biodiversity.
- 2.2 To raise awareness of the intrinsic value of a healthy environment and its role as our life support system.
- 2.3 To campaign to promote environmental health and protection at a local, regional, state and national level to the best of our abilities.
- 2.4 To raise awareness of local and broader issues affecting the environment, through direct communication, NVCA newsletter, meetings, fundraising events and the media.
- 2.5 To promote the principles of ecologically sustainable development and land management including the marine environment.
- 2.6 To encourage the community to participate in local issues which relate to ecologically sustainable development and environmental health.
- 2.7 To remain informed about current issues and trends in environmental health, conservation and natural resource management.
- 2.8 To participate in Local, State and Federal Government processes relating to environmental management.

## 3 OPERATING PROTOCOLS

- 3.1 **New Memberships**  
All new membership applications to be considered for approval at the next general meeting of the Association.

- 3.2 **Delegation to campaign on behalf of the NVCA**

Members may seek and receive delegations to pursue issues on behalf of the NVCA as long as:

- a) The President and Secretary or if one is unavailable, another member of the executive, or  
a general meeting has approved a position by resolution on the issue to be pursued;
- b) Correspondence issued on behalf of the NVCA, including email has been approved by the Secretary or two executive committee members other than the author; the media protocol is followed and the member reports back to the executive committee or a general meeting on a regular basis regarding progress, outcomes and propose or further actions required.

- 3.3 **Media Protocol**

Members may issue media releases on behalf of the NVCA on the basis that two executive committee members other than the author have agreed to:

- a) the wording of the media release, the timing of its release and the strategy for promoting it,
- b) the outlets to which it will be sent and
- c) any spokesperson to speak to the release.

- 3.4 **Reimbursement of Expenses**

Approval for reimbursement of expenses must be given by at least three members of the executive committee. Payment is not assured and will be dictated by available funds.

- 3.5 **NVCA Resource library**

- 3.6 Members may access the resource library by making arrangements with the Secretary.

- 3.6 **Equipment Inventory**

The executive to review the status of equipment inventory annually.

## 4 THE e-LIST POLICY

- 4.1 e-List contact details are not for general distribution.
- 4.2 e-List contact details are only to be accessed by an executive member.
- 4.3 Only members who request to be on the e-list will be included.
- 4.4 e-list addresses to be 'CCd' when posted.
- 4.5 Size of emails and attachments to be kept to a minimum.
- 4.6 Number of emails to be monitored to avoid member overload.
- 4.7 e-list members will receive: Minutes of monthly meetings, Electronic petitions, Submissions and Campaign updates.

## 5 FACEBOOK PROTOCOLS - Adopted 29th July, 2011

An NVCA Facebook presence/page was established at the NVCA Facebook Workshop on 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2011. The following protocols apply to the management of this page and postings to it:

- 5.1 **Management:**

The page and postings are to be managed by an administrator elected at the Annual General Meeting each year.

The Administrator must also be a member of the NVCA Committee.

The Administrator will carry out the management of the page and postings in line with NVCA protocols.

- 5.2 **Process for Postings by NVCA:**

Any draft by an NVCA Ordinary Member can be posted by the Administrator if it has first been viewed and accepted by 2 Committee Members, in line with NVCA's longstanding Media Release Policy.

Any draft by a Committee Member or the Administrator can be posted by the Administrator after being viewed and accepted by 1 other NVCA Committee Member.

An exemption from the above protocol applies only to matters which are small, factual and in line with NVCA's policies and carried motions – for example: to answer a query about time, date and place of an NVCA event.

- 5.3 **Posting content:**

Posts are to meet the criteria that they are suitable for publicly representing NVCA, and do not contain defamatory or inflammatory language or intent.

Posts should not include personal information such as name or contact details of any person who has not expressly given their permission.

Posts should not include personal opinions.

- 5.4 **Policy re accepting or rejecting 'friends':**

All requests to be 'friends' are to be accepted in good faith, unless and until posts prove at odds with NVCA's own objectives.

## 6 PROCEDURES FOR NVCA REPRESENTATIVES - Adopted August, 2011

The following procedures are to be followed by NVCA Representatives unless otherwise advised by the executive:

- 6.1 Each NVCA Representative is to be the contact person for the committee to which they are appointed.
- 6.2 email or hard copies of agenda and minutes received by the representative are to be forwarded, with **important matters highlighted**, to the NVCA Secretary for distribution to the NVCA Executive for input/feedback.
- 6.3 As soon as possible after attendance at a committee meeting, the representative will provide a **briefing note** to the secretary, preferably by email, outlining any items relevant to the NVCA, to be tabled at the next NVCA meeting.
- 6.4 When possible, the representative will attend the relevant NVCA meetings to discuss the matters from the previous committee meeting, and seek feedback/support in preparation for next committee meeting.
- 6.5 When necessary, an alternative representative will be appointed and be responsible for the above procedures/responsibilities which apply to representatives.