

New South Wales Forest Alliance

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Media Release – Wednesday 1 September 1998

LOGGING INDUSTRY THREATENS TOURISM OPPORTUNITIES

Claims that logging and tourism are 'natural allies' have been rejected as 'typical timber industry hype' which defy the facts and ignore simple commonsense, the New South Wales Forest Alliance said today.

The Alliance's comments follow the circulation last week of a briefing note prepared by the NSW Forest Products Association, in which three spurious assumptions are raised and it is claimed that the timber industry and the tourism industry are 'partners in regional development'.

"Logging damages, often very seriously, the conservation values which attract tourists and others pursuing active recreation. Forestry practices simplify forest eco-systems, adversely affect threatened species, decrease water quality and diminish aesthetic appeal. They are ugly, noisy operations which all too often leave behind a horrible mess. FPA failed to mention any of this in their briefing note," said Mr John Corkill, spokesperson for NFA.

Mr Corkill said that the tourism industry's contribution to the regional economy now far outstripped the timber industry's. He said studies done for the NSW Government in 1995 by the Southern Cross University Centre for Tourism Studies show that tourism and recreation on public lands in the northern rivers region generated \$X and \$XX while the state forest based timber industry generated \$Y. (See attached extract)

"The FPA must be aware of these government published studies, but they have failed to refer to them. Local government councillors and their staff should check the facts themselves, before accepting as gospel this timber industry 'spin'. If the timber industry believes people will come to see trashed forest, they're the only ones who do."

"Far from being amicable partners, the frightening reality is that by logging a forest the timber industry damages its natural aesthetic appeal, the essential basis of the growing forest based tourism industry. This is no assumption, it is observed fact and commonsense," he said.

Mr Corkill said that further studies to update the value of the north east forests for timber production and tourism were presently underway in the regional forest assessment being conducted by the NSW and Commonwealth governments. He said that the results of these latest studies would probably become available later in October.

ends.

For more info ph John Corkill 02 66 213 123 w or 02 6622 7821 h or Jane on 02 9279 2855

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The Alliance's comments follow the circulation last week of a briefing note prepared by the NSW Forest Products Association, in which three spurious assumptions are raised and it is claimed that the timber industry and the tourism industry are 'partners in regional development'.

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Mr Corkill said that the tourism industry's contribution to the regional economy now far outstripped the timber industry's. He said studies done for the NSW Government in 1995 by Jensen et al and the Southern Cross University Centre for Tourism show that tourism and recreation on public lands in the northern rivers region generated \$288 million and \$149 million, respectively while the state forest based timber industry generated \$23 million. (See 'Regional Report on Upper North East NSW, Volume 5 Socio-Economic Values' table 10e page 250, Resource and Conservation Assessment Council 1996)

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TOURISM & RECREATION OUTSTRIP TIMBER INDUSTRY ECONOMICS

Claims that the economic well being of north east NSW depends on the perpetuation of the native forest timber industry are without foundation, as the extracts below clearly show.

Studies of the value of timber production and of tourism and recreation were commissioned by the NSW Government in 1995. The results of these studies were published in 1996 by the Resource and Conservation Assessment Council in Volume 5 Socio-Economic Values – of the 'Regional Report on Upper North East NSW'. This is the most up-to-date report on regional economic activity presently available.

Public lands products contributions, Upper North East NSW, 1992 –93

Product	Output Value (\$)	Composition (%)
Timber & forest products	23 005 188	5
Fish	24 276 256	5
Minerals	8 659 828	2
Water	150 000	0
Agricultural products	3 659 383	1
Recreation	149 000 000	30
Tourism	288 000 000	57
TOTAL	496 750 655	100

Table 10e page 250, Source: Jensen et al 1995; Centre for Tourism 1995

Employment Impacts

"The CARE 1995 input-output study provides estimates of the employment impacts of public lands production in the Upper North East region

- 1327 people were employed directly in the production of [all] commercial products from public lands, with a further 852 employed because of flow-on effects. The downstream processing of [all] these products, incorporating flow-on effects generated a further 5719 jobs. (Total 7898)
- 5100 people were directly employed in tourist operations based on public lands, and indirect employment amounted to 3800 jobs. (Total 8900)
- 2500 jobs were generated directed by public lands recreation in the region and a further 1800 jobs were created indirectly. (Total 4300)"

(Section 10.4.1 page 251 Source: CARE 1995)

Value added commercial products

Product	Value added / Output %	Value Added \$
Timber & forest products	87.99	19 996 442
Fish	79.22	19 231 650
Minerals	52.58	4 553 337
Water	52.43	*
Agricultural products	51.43	1 918 781
TOTAL		45 700 210

Table 10g page 252 Source: Jensen et al 1995

* Estimated value of water was based on the costs of production and hence does not involve a component of value added.

"For [all] commercial production on public lands in the Upper North East region, this flow on value added is calculated by CARE (1995) to be in the order of \$32 million. Hence total value added from [all] commercial production is approximately \$78 million. When downstream processing impacts are included an additional \$240 million in value added can be incorporated. Altogether, this amounts to \$318 million of value added from [all] commercial production.

It should also be noted that CARE (1995) also estimates the value added contributed by recreation and tourism in the Upper North East. For tourism, direct value added amounted to almost \$170 million and with the flow-on effects incorporated, total value added rises to over \$310 million.

The comparable figures for recreation are \$77 million and \$145 million."

Section 10.5.1 page 252-253 Sources: Jensen et al 1995 & CARE 1995

For more info call John Corkill on 02 66 213 123 w; 02 66 227 821 h or Jane on 02 9279 2466