

ERRINUNDRA ROAD

840-504-0001

Scheduled Logging in Rainforest Site of Significance – National, Priority 1

Dear Department of Sustainability and Environment Staff,

Scheduled logging coupe 840-504-0001 (see Figure 1.) has been “taped out” on the ground in preparation for logging activities. However, a significant proportion of this coupe overlaps a National Rainforest Site of Significance, Priority One (RSOS-NP1) (see Figures 2. and 3. and Table 1). This is the highest significance rating allotted for rainforest stands in Victoria. The rainforest within this RSOS is Cool Temperate Rainforest. This community is covered by a Flora and Fauna Guarantee Action Statement which provides that “Sub-catchment protection of rainforest stands must be provided in core areas of National Sites of Significance for Rainforest (Peel 1999), with buffers to the nearest watershed.” The portion of this coupe (that is, all the coupe area South of Errinundra Road) that overlaps this RSOS-NP1 core area must be protected from the impacts of logging including all that forest that extends to the nearest watershed, where this is defined in the action statement as “a ridge or spur of land which separates two adjacent river systems”. These are the “guidelines and minimum prescriptions to protect FFG-listed rainforest communities during forestry operations on public land” (See Appendix A). VicForests and their contractors, and the Department as their regulator, must not disregard these minimum prescriptions without which no leave is granted by the people of Victoria to cause such serious and irreversible damage to Victorian State Forest. Without such protections logging in this area will be unlawful and the Department must ensure that such activities do not proceed.

Please respond to the author of this letter confirming your awareness to this situation and confirm that VicForests will be prevented from proceeding with their plans and operations logging in this area.

Thankyou, I await your response.

Andrew Lincoln.
asl80@hotmail.com
18/11/11

Figure 1. Detail from *East Gippsland FMA, Bendoc District, Approved Timber Release Plan with amendments applied, Harvest Years 200910 to 201314*, VicForests, 30 September 2011

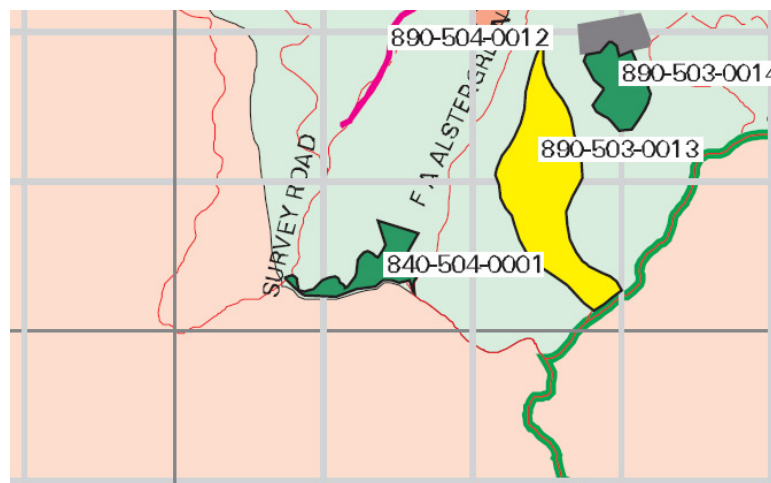


Figure 2. Detail from; DSE, Forest Explorer 5, online interactive maps
 Layers Displayed: Forest Management Zones, 200910-201314 TRP, Logging History

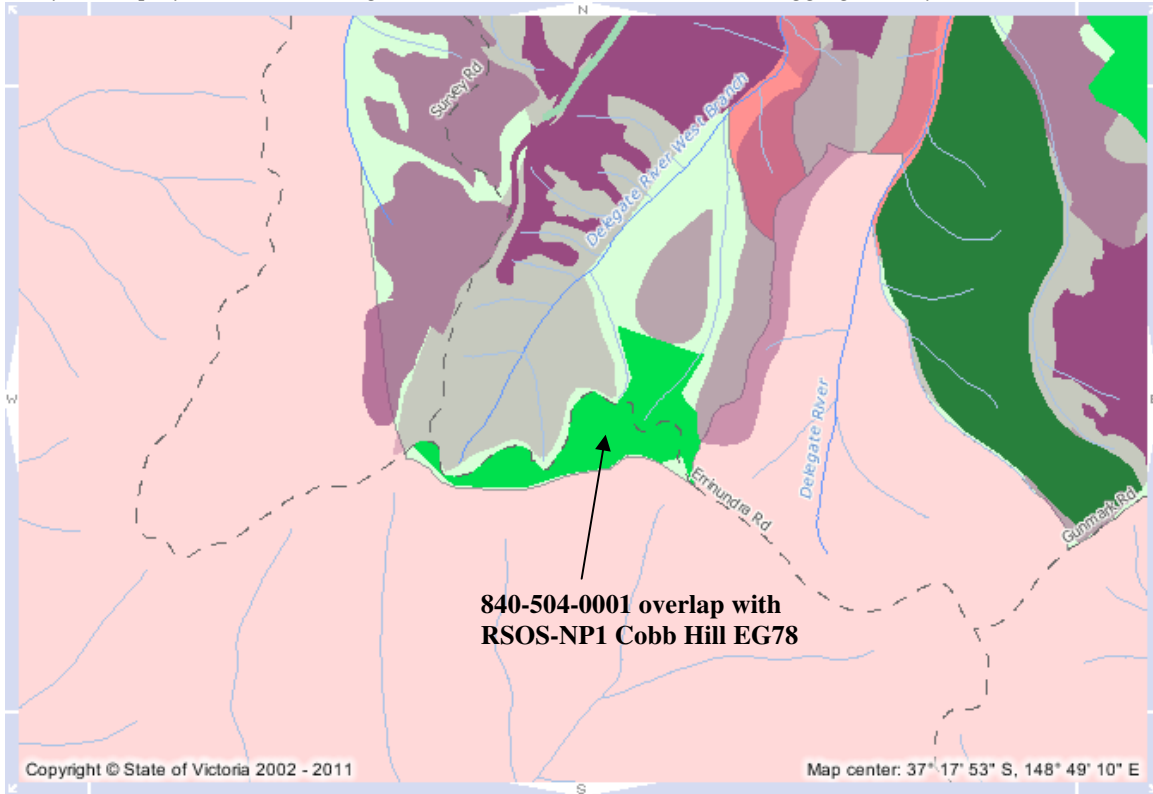


Figure 3. Detail from; DSE, Biodiversity Interactive Maps, online interactive maps
 Layers Displayed: Rainforest Sites of Significance, Rainforest Stands, Logging History, Threatened Fauna and Flora (all layers)

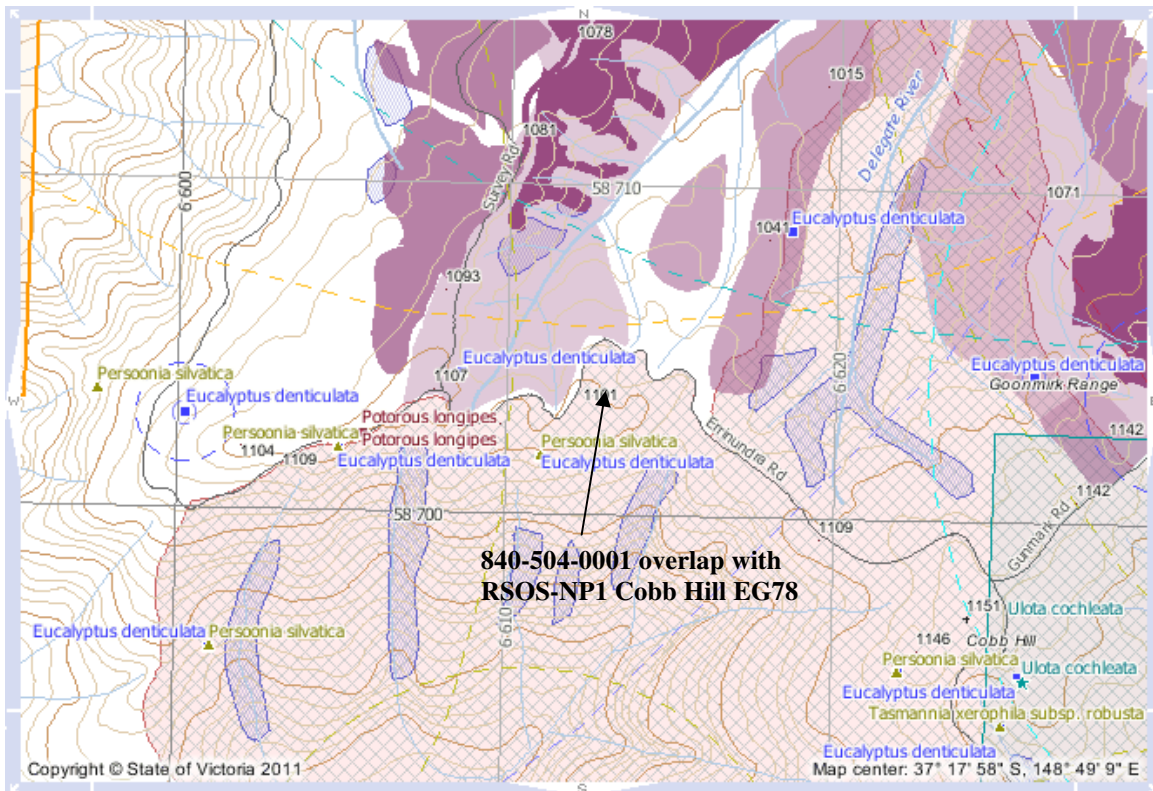


Table 1. DSE, Biodiversity Interactive Maps, Map inspect data from Figure 3. map centre (within area that overlaps scheduled logging coupe 840-504-0001).

Identify Results

Coordinate Position

Lat/Long: 37° 17' 58" S, 148° 49' 9" E

MGA 54: 1193554, 5843123

MGA 55: 661233, 5870352

Vicgrid94: 2838475, 2459977

Rainforest Significance Rating

Site Name: Cobb Hill

Site ID: EG78

Significance: N

Priority: 1

Area (ha): 1877.38

RAINFOREST MANAGEMENT PRIORITY

Site Name: Cobb Hill

Site ID: EG78

Significance: N

Priority: 1

Area (ha): 1877.38

APPENDIX A

Exerpt from FFGA Action Statement 238, "Appendix 1 Guidelines and minimum prescriptions to protect FFG-listed rainforest communities during forestry operations on public land";

Sites of significance for rainforest

Sub-catchment protection³ of rainforest stands must be provided in core areas⁴ of National Sites of Significance for Rainforest (Peel 1999⁵), with buffers to the nearest watershed⁶. As part of detailed forest management planning, further protection has been considered for rainforest stands within sites of State or regional Significance, where the values of these stands warrant such protection. ...

³ Subcatchment protection is defined as protecting the intact catchment unit which encompasses land upstream or upslope of the rainforest stand.

⁴ A core area is defined as an area delineated by DSE which includes the most significant rainforest stands within a site of significance for rainforest.

⁵ Peel, B. (1999) *Rainforests and Cool Temperate Mixed Forests of Victoria*, Department of Natural Resources and Environment, East Melbourne.

⁶ A watershed is defined as a ridge or spur of land which separates two adjacent river systems.¹

¹ Victorian Government Department of Sustainability and Environment, [Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 Action Statement No. 238, Cool Temperate Rainforest; Dry Rainforest \(Limestone\); Warm Temperate Rainforest \(Coastal East Gippsland\); Warm Temperate Rainforest \(Cool Temperate Overlap, Howe Range\); Warm Temperate Rainforest \(East Gippsland Alluvial Terraces\); Warm Temperate Rainforest \(Far East Gippsland\); Human activity which results in artificially elevated or epidemic levels of Myrtle Wilt within Nothofagus dominated Cool Temperate Rainforest](#), Melbourne, 2009, p.20