

27 December 2013

Mr. Daniel Tuan,
Regional Manager, Southern
Forestry Corporation
PO Box 42
Batemans Bay NSW 2536

Dear Mr. Tuan,

I refer to your correspondence of 6 December 2013 in response to mine of 3 October 2013. In that letter I indicated a willingness to provide a more thorough rebuttal of claims made in the cursory assessment. The Murrah – Bunga koala recovery project was intended to run for two years, the fence has been maintained by the community since it was erected and has an estimated life time of 25-30 years.

On the issue of securing consent you indicate that State Forests of NSW (now the Forestry Corporation of NSW) have no records regarding an occupation permit. In a letter dated 24 June 2003 (your reference, 00553/3) Mr B. Heffernan, for Acting Regional Manager Mr Steve Dodds, finally provided the conditions prepared to cover a proposed occupation permit that among other things required paying State Forests before it would consider giving written consent for the fence.

FCNSW have never provided any substantive or relevant reasons for not providing its consent, have never disputed the comprehensive site specific scientific soils information on which it is based or that it would have a positive impact on the forest and koalas. Yet your request to remove the structure infers that the issues it was intended to address been attempted, achieved and completed.

While this is clearly not the case, I note eligibility for Biodiversity fund does not apply to areas where activities have been completed or, are substantially the same as activities funded through other initiatives or programs or, where the activities are not additional to the business as usual practices of the land managers and/or land owners.

In light of the above, the fact that completing the fence would seem to provide more benefits than removing it and that fulfilling your request appears to require endorsing business usual, I request FCNSW provide details on how fulfilling your request will help koalas and allay community concerns about die-back and what other environmental and economic approaches are FCNSW proposing to address what will become, if it isn't already, irreversible land degradation.

Yours sincerely