

A better way forward for forests in NSW



Koala in Murrah Flora Reserves, Wapengo. Photo: David Gallan

Regional Forest Agreements (RFAs) are agreements between the Commonwealth and state governments for the management of native forests. They were established in the late 1990s to resolve the conflicts between conservation and industrial logging. There are three RFAs in NSW – Eden, North East and Southern NSW.

The stated intention of RFAs was to protect threatened species, secure forestry jobs and adhere to ecologically sustainable principles of forest management. But the reality has been the propping up of a timber industry with government subsidies even as jobs decline, the deaths of many animals, especially those who depend on tree hollows and large old trees, and loss of biodiversity.

Unfortunately, in late 2018 the RFAs were extended for another 20 years. Uniting Eco Group wants a better way forward for the forest protection and economic development in regional communities. We support the “Forests for All” vision of the National Parks Association of NSW and encourage you to do likewise.

More information about the problems
with RFAs and how to take action:
www.forestsforall.org.au

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The Uniting Church and biodiversity

In 1991, the Uniting Church in Australia adopted the statement “The Rights of Nature and the Rights of Future Generations”, which stated: “We support the attribution of rights not only to humans but also to nature, God's creation, and we reject the view that animate and inanimate nature are mere objects which stand at the arbitrary disposal of the human.”

The statement affirmed a series of “Rights of Nature”, including:

- Nature has a right to the protection of its eco-systems, species, and populations in their inter-connectedness.
- Organisms have a right to a life fit for their species, including procreation within their appropriate ecosystems.
- Disturbances of nature require a justification. They are only permissible when the presuppositions of the disturbance are determined in a democratically legitimate process and with respect of the rights of nature; when the interests of the disturbance outweigh the interests of a complete protection of the rights of nature; and when the disturbance is not inordinate.
- Rare ecosystems, and above all those with an abundance of species, are to be placed under absolute protection.

www.unitingearthweb.org.au



*This leaflet was produced by Uniting Eco Group,
with the support of Uniting Earth Ministry.*

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