

What's Happening to Our Forests?

- Ugly holes appearing on the slopes of Mt St Leonard before our eyes
- Mature native forest along Myers Creek Road scheduled for clear-felling
- Old growth forests with 500 year old trees being illegally logged
- 'Salvage logging' along Lady Talbot Drive trashes iconic forest landscapes and prevents natural regeneration
- Vast tracts in the Upper Acheron Valley converted to plantation and remaining unburned forest targeted logging in the near future
- Bicentennial National Trail cleared on either side
- Leadbeaters possum habitat logged despite less than 1000 remaining since the fires.

Since logging in the Otways and the Wombat Forest was halted, VicForests have targeted the Central Highlands in a desperate bid to stay afloat financially and fulfil contracts to Japanese-owned paper mills. After several years of financial loss, VicForests is no longer able to pay royalties to government revenue. It is still making a loss, despite being subsidised by state government (as a 'Government Business Enterprise') and having been granted 2000 hectares of burned forest in the Central Highlands for 'salvage logging' after the fire. Now, they have put in a new Timber Release Plan to the DSE for over 5000 hectares (gross) of unburned and lightly burned forest in the Central Highlands Region. This amounts to almost 10% of the 66,000 hectares of state forest in the Central Highlands that is available for logging and is clearly unsustainable.

If the planned logging is permitted to go ahead, it will have a serious impact on the Central Highlands' landscape values, biodiversity, water catchments and of course the tourism industry. Remember, tax-payers are getting nothing in return for our precious forest resources being stripped away.

If you wish to find out more, come to a public meeting that has been called jointly by *MyEnvironment* Inc, the Healesville Environment Watch Inc, Save Mt Leonards, The Wilderness Society, and local residents.

When? Thursday June 24, 7 – 9 pm

Where? Healesville Memorial Hall, Maroondah Highway

We invite residents from Alexandra, Taggerty, Buxton, Marysville, Narbethong, Toolangi, Warburton and Healesville who are concerned about the increased rate of logging and wish to add their voices to a community protest and take a stand to stop the logging of native forests once and for all.

For further information, visit
MyEnvironment.net.au/healesvillemeting)

