



North East Forest Alliance

## NORTH EAST FOREST ALLIANCE

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To whom it may concern.

NEFA commissioned surveys in compartments 21, 22, 26, 27 & 28 of Newry State Forest to assess threatened species. The attached report by Bower Bush Works 'Nature Conservation Values Compartments 21, 22, 26, 27 & 28 Newry State Forest' provides the results from their brief survey. Within the logging area Bower Bush Works identified five threatened plant species from 40 locations, a Southern Greater Glider den tree, Koala scratches on numerous trees, and significant patches of high quality habitat for the nationally threatened Glossy Black Cockatoo, Koala and Greater Glider.

A complimentary survey by Biolink of Koalas in a number of forests (which is not yet finalised), recorded an active Koala site in Newry, commenting "*the single independently active site we recorded is most significant when considered in the context of recent records from the same localised area over the last 3 – 4 years. Collectively, these data point to the presence of what is likely to be a small and quite localised resident population of koalas surviving in this area*".

The Koala site identified by Biolink is within a Koala Hub<sup>1</sup> identified by the Office of Environment and Heritage for protection, that NEFA has previously brought to the Minister for Environment's attention on 3 April and asked to be excluded from logging. This result confirms its importance and reinforces the need to protect it.

Both Biolink and Bower Bush Works emphasise the need for protection of all mature Koala feed trees in Newry and further surveys to identify core habitat.

The Bower Bush Works record of the Endangered Southern Greater Glider den tree requires urgent protection, under the CIFOA the requirement is for a 50m buffer which must be applied. This emphasises the need for further surveys to identify habitat and dens of this nationally Endangered species.

It is apparent that the Forestry Corporation surveys for threatened plants are inadequate as Bower Bush Works identified numerous records and 2 species they failed to find. Of the five threatened plant species identified, 3 require no protection, though the CIFOA logging rules require specific protections for 2 of them:

4 locations of Slender Marsdenia *Marsdenia longiloba*, an endangered plant requiring 20m buffers under the CIFOA that was not identified as occurring in Newry by the Forestry Corporation

2 locations of Rainforest Cassia *Senna acclinis*, an endangered plant requiring pre-logging surveys in Spring and Summer under the CIFOA that was not identified as occurring in Newry by the Forestry Corporation

These locations need to be urgently protected. There needs to be thorough surveys to identify all locations of threatened plants, particularly Slender Marsdenia and Rainforest Cassia before logging proceeds.

Bower Bush Works identified serious infections by the introduced fungus Myrtle Rust on Rose Myrtle and Scrub Turpentine and infestations of Lantana, including in the Endangered Ecological Community Lowland Rainforest, that require urgent active management. Management plans need to be prepared for these Key Threatening Processes before they are aggravated by logging.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Dailan Pugh". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Dailan Pugh OAM

1. Koala Hubs were identified in 2017, at the request of the Chief Scientist, the Office of Environment and Heritage who analysed Koala records *"to delineate highly significant local scale areas of koala occupancy currently known for protection"*, identifying *"areas of currently known significant koala occupancy that indicate clusters of resident populations known as Koala Hubs"*.