

# SouthEastTIMBERassociation

South East Timber Association Inc PO Box 773 Eden NSW 2551

Having read the article in the Bombala Times regarding Phil Miller blocking the Tantawangalo Road, I have a few questions.

Given the recent wet weather, can Alasdair McDonald explain to me how the trucks that Miller stopped could be blowing dust over Miller's farm? The people who were there said the road was damp, not dusty.

According to Phil Miller in the Youtube clip, two and a half years ago, Bob Stewart promised to have the road near Miller's house tarred. If Bob couldn't deliver, why did he make the promise?

In supporting Phil Miller, does the mayor think it is reasonable to deny truck drivers the right to work? If Phil Miller was reasonable, why doesn't he allow the trucks to use the road when the road is damp and not dusty, as was the case on the Friday he blocked the road?

What were the conditions Phil Miller applied to the haulage of pine logs from his property and from the other private plantation just up the road. His claim on Youtube that it was 2 or 3 loads is BS. He says the hardwood is a commercial operation. As he sold the pine logs and didn't donate them, the pine operation was commercial too. So after a week of no haulage for the contractor, maybe it is time to stop the double standards.

Would the mayor and Phil Miller think it OK for the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) to stop them going to work because they disagree with sheep being shorn and sent for slaughter by farmers like Bob & Phil?

I can't help the editor about the OH&S investigator, but I do have some questions for Ben Smyth. Ben, did you request the Bombala Times employee to go out to get photos? I see that the photo used by the BT has the tractor parked in the driveway.

Did the BT photographer take the photo of the tractor blocking the road that appears on the ABC south east radio web site? As there are no trucks around, I assume this is a staged photo taken after the police ordered the tractor to be removed from the road on Friday morning.

If the BT photographer took the photos including the one with the tractor on the road, who made the decision or gave the direction to put the tractor on the road again? Was any traffic control put in place? Were any checks undertaken to ensure the tractor was registered and had appropriate insurance cover in the event something unexpected happened?

<http://www.topgear.com/au/news/2015/07/10-rallycar-and-tractor-nearly-crash>

One thing I have learnt from protests of this sort is that a Person Conducting a Business or Undertaking (PCBUs) has a lot more responsibility under the Work Health & Safety Act 2011, than most sorts of protestors or their supporters.

As the footage that is now on Youtube shows the initial blocking of the Tantawangalo Road, maybe Mr Miller and the media better have a good think about their respective obligations, in case the OH&S investigator comes knocking with a WorkCover inspector.

[https://youtu.be/eBhrz\\_M0z00](https://youtu.be/eBhrz_M0z00)

Norman Wilton

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