

SouthEastTIMBERassociation

The Myth of Non-Violent Direct Action Protests

Direct action protests have been occurring in NSW forests for over 30 years. During that time, activists have constantly referred to this activity as **non-violent**. Why is the description “non violence” a myth perpetuated by the activist movement?

Violent - Unlawful Exercise of Force:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=goxslw443dw>

<http://youtu.be/3Uil3oVxKCA>

Violent – Intimidation by Threat

http://youtu.be/aS_03WJ2KyY

<http://youtu.be/9NVsQnZf2fc>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U6tU8JWv0Cg>

Unfortunately, the worst of the activist behaviour has never been captured on film. However, activists have used hidden cameras to capture the physical retaliation by workers who have finally cracked after months and years of disruption, sabotage and harassment.

Why have governments allowed this sort of behaviour to flourish in the forests of Australia for over 30 years? Why should workers be faced with this sort of behaviour in their workplace?

There are also legislative areas where “environmental” activists receive a free pass. The following clips show protestors potentially breaching various elements of Section 29 of the NSW Work Health & Safety Act 2011.

NSW Workplace Health and Safety Act 2011

29 Duties of other persons at the workplace

A person at a workplace (whether or not the person has another duty under this Part) must:

- (a) take reasonable care for his or her own health and safety, and
- (b) take reasonable care that his or her acts or omissions do not adversely affect the health and safety of other persons, and
- (c) comply, so far as the person is reasonably able, with any reasonable instruction that is given by the person conducting the business or undertaking to allow the person conducting the business or undertaking to comply with this Act.

<http://youtu.be/Ttf0eqXf9LI>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HcTnNKHwHnU>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8IR1Sx1jcu8>



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<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-exl6Eo9S6w>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lcqyVt2Jk6k>

<http://youtu.be/-LVJipWRmrU>

While any employee or employer would likely face charges under the WH&S Act for these behaviours, no forest protector has ever been called to account by NSW work health and safety regulators.

One last question. If the protestors in the photos below are behaving lawfully and acting non-violently, why the need to hide their identity?

