

SouthEastTIMBERassociation

ANU Proposed South East NSW Native Forest Industry Closure – Economic Research or Eco-Political Activism?

On 30 November 2021, the Australian National University and consultancy firm Frontier Economics began promoting an economic paper that advocates for the closure of native forest harvesting operations in southern NSW. The report claimed

Based on conservative assumptions, the study found stopping native forestry in the Southern and Eden RFA areas would produce a net economic benefit to the state of approximately \$60 million, while also reducing net greenhouse gas emissions by almost 1 million tonnes (Mt) per year over the period 2022-2041.

The report is fundamentally flawed and immediately begged the question as to whether ANU College of Law climate risk expert Professor Andrew Macintosh was engaging in economic research or eco-political activism.

<https://legalpractice.anu.edu.au/news-and-events/news/anu-law-professor-co-authors-report-climate-and-economic-outcomes-southern-nsw>

The report was widely promoted by AAP and appeared in regional and national media outlets.

<https://www.edenmagnet.com.au/story/7532027/native-forest-worth-more-than-logs-report/>

The Australian Associated Press (AAP) responded to South East Timber Association concerns about the report on the closedown of the native forest industry in south east NSW.

The AAP have advised: *"In keeping with AAP's proud reputation for producing objective and fact-based journalism, we published another article today, based on the information you provided. The article was distributed to all the same networks as the previous article and has been widely used this afternoon."*

<https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/7544808/timber-industry-slams-analysis-on-forests/?cs=14264>

"AAP is committed to the principles it promotes on its website and issues 'corrections' to articles if and when necessary. In that regard we will revisit the information provided by the ANU."

The photo at the top of the article appears to have been taken on the west coast of the USA or Canada, in a Douglas Fir harvesting operation.

Other relevant material, including an email to Professor Macintosh, which remains unanswered, is below. As a result of Professor Macintosh and other senior ANU staff refusing to engage on this issue, a Freedom of Information request, seeking background information on this issue was submitted to the ANU in late December.



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