

**Jeremy Rockliff MP
Minister for Tourism
Executive Building
Hobart, 7000**

**Felix Ellis
Minister for (Forest) Resources
Level 5, Salamanca Building, 4 Salamanca Pl
Hobart 7000**

7 March 2023

Dear Minister Rockliff and Minister Ellis,

Re: Forest destruction at Maydena

We are writing to you with yet another example of Forestry Tasmania (trading as 'Sustainable Timber Tasmania') destroying more value than it creates.

The Maydena community opposes the imminent logging of two coupes at Maydena, threatening to undermine the town's tourism industry.

Maydena is the gateway to the Styx region, known for its spectacular forests, some of which are protected. Despite the state-owned logging agency's best efforts, the township and community are doing a great job of developing its tourism capital.

Your government's line seems to be that logging and tourism can coexist. Apart from the fact that the latest conflict at Maydena shows that they can't, local communities like those in Dover, Derby, Surges Bay, Jackey's Marsh, Maydena and countless others simply do not want to coexist with logging. Yet, it is continuously inflicted upon communities, who can do nothing to stop it.

No one visits Maydena - or anywhere else - to experience forest destruction. But this is about to be forced on yet another community at peak tourist season, no less. Another community denied a say about their local forest. And have the rightful owners, the Aboriginal community, been consulted? Of course not.

We believe it's fundamental to local democracy that communities are provided with information about these decisions before they are made, can have a say in them and can appeal them. Maydena residents need their community rights respected - the decision-making process needs to be one of transparency, integrity and accountability.

As far as we know, the logging of rainforest coupe TN031B adjacent to Maydena Bike Park is still due to commence. Unless the Maydena community and its supporters can prevent it, international visitors to the Enduro World Series will catch a glimpse of Tasmania's secret war on nature - forest destruction usually hidden from view.

The clearfelling of the other forest coupe TN010A, adjacent to Junee Cave, Maydena's other top tourism destination, will tear a hole in the ecological fabric of this area, which is flanked by conservation reserves. TN010A is upstream from Tyenna River, is full of spectacular ferns, rests upon a globally-significant karst system, and contains threatened species habitat of the Masked Owl, Wedgetail Eagle and Eastern Quoll.

lutruwita/Tasmania should be showing off these ancient globally significant, biodiverse, climate-critical Aboriginal forests to the world, not logging them for a loss. Logging forests, mostly for woodchips, is economical and ecological madness.

We ask that you direct that these two logging coupes be removed from the logging schedule.

This island is richer without the ransacking of these forests, and is all the poorer because of it.

For nature,



Alice Hardinge
Forest Campaigner
Wilderness Society Tasmania