

## **Letter 4 - wilderness restoration and nature based management for the South East Forests National Park**

### **Points for your letter:**

Wilderness management of core park areas reduces the edge effects that fray ecosystems and damage ecological integrity. Wilderness management also reduces visitor management costs by providing facilities in accessible areas located close to park boundaries.

(I/your group) strongly support the efforts being taken by the Office of Environment and Heritage to restore the Coolangubra Wilderness in the South East Forest National Park. The decision not to turn this park into a playground for 4WD vehicles is welcomed. Most of the 450 kilometres of public roads in this park should remain closed and be rehabilitated to restore the natural conditions to the park.

Thousands of volunteers worked for over a decade through peaceful protests to protect the South East Forests. A vehicle-focussed development vision would have weakened the protection of the South East Forests and would threaten the long term plant and animal diversity by retaining environmentally damaging edge effects along the maze of roads from past logging schemes.

I support the continued closure of Wog Way through the heart of the Coolangubra Wilderness and all tributary roads should be removed to restore the integrity to this wonderful area. Please advise what steps you will take to progressively remove and rehabilitate these former logging roads?

What steps will you take, as a matter of urgency, to close the Postmans Track to motor vehicle and horse riders to protect the near- pristine Tantawangalo Creek catchment, and declare it a wilderness area?