

14 December 2012

## **The effectiveness of threatened species and ecological communities' protection in Australia**

Dear Sir/Madam

The bushfires of 2009 destroyed 42% of Leadbeaters possum habitat. The remaining population, thought to be as few as 1,000 is in peril and it is predicted that without intervention could be extinct within the next 25 years.

Clearfell logging in this area is putting this small population at further risk. Logging continues in the Central Highlands and in an area around Toolangi that survived the fires despite the damage done by the fires.

These possums rely on the connectivity of a dense understory to allow them to move around their territory to feed and nest.

Clearfell logging destroys that connectivity by rendering large areas devoid of trees.



Toolangi- 11/11/12

This photo shows the newly completed 'Leo's foot' coupe on the western side of Mt St Leonard in Toolangi. This coupe is an ugly scar on the side of an iconic mountain visible for many kilometres.

The trees left standing are referred to as habitat trees. As you can see from the image above these trees would not be likely to provide habitat for many years to come.

Subsequent to logging a "regeneration burn" is staged and these "habitat" trees are burnt along with the material that is deemed by the forestry industry to be worthless.



Warburton East after "regeneration burn" 30/3/12

Clearfell logging in the Central Highlands is destroying the habitat of this already endangered possum

.

We need to act now before it is too late.

Yours sincerely  
Karena Goldfinch