



Major timber mill stripped of its contract for secretly exporting logs

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Nannup Timber Processing, the State's second largest native forest timber miller, has been caught exporting whole logs in breach of its contract.

The WA Forest Alliance, which exposed the secret export operation, says that this is just the tip of the iceberg and a full and independent inquiry is needed.

"We understand that the extent of this undercover export operation has been far greater than the investigation has found. The only way we'll get to the bottom of this is with a full and independent inquiry," said Jess Beckerling, convener of the WA Forest Alliance.

"The Forest Products Commission has chosen only to investigate the marri exports and to ignore the apparent export of jarrah. That's just not good enough.

"Ongoing logging is pushing Red-tailed Black Cockatoos, Baudin's and Carnaby's cockatoos, Western Ringtail Possums and other forest wildlife to the brink of extinction and releasing huge volumes of carbon into the atmosphere.

"The only justification the industry gives for ongoing logging of our precious, ancient forest is that it creates local jobs and timber for Western Australians but this major saw-miller has been sending its workers home and secretly packing logs into sea containers rather than milling them locally.

"This is the latest in a long line of native forest logging scandals involving wasting of high value jarrah sawlogs, secret exports and the biodiversity conservation department overlooking the deliberate destruction of endangered wildlife habitat.

"Last week our formal complaint about the deliberate destruction of endangered wildlife habitat was dismissed by the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions on the basis that it wasn't a breach of guidelines.

"The regulation of the logging of our native forests is hopelessly inadequate. The forests don't belong to the industry. They should not be able to operate as if they're a law unto themselves.

"We need to protect our forests for wildlife and for climate and move the industry over to sustainably managed plantations and farm forestry," said Ms Beckerling.

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