



MEDIA RELEASE
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Logging stopped in Helms and McCorkhill forests near Nannup

Logging has been brought to a standstill by forest defenders in Helms forest and McCorkhill forest near Nannup this morning.

Mace Clarion, from Perth, has their arms locked around the blade of a timber-jack – a massive mechanical logging machine in Helms – and is determined to prevent the machine from operating for as long as possible.

“I am locking on out of sense of desperation. We are facing combined climate and ecological crises and it’s essential that we immediately protect native forests,” Mace said.

“Native forests are critical allies in our efforts to avert climate chaos and prevent wildlife extinctions, but we’re still chopping them down, and largely for firewood, charcoal and woodchips. It’s insane and it has to stop.

“Helms is internationally recognised as an Important Bird Area for the number of breeding pairs of endangered Carnaby’s and Baudins Cockatoos it supports. It is also essential habitat for quokkas and other wildlife.

“I actually can’t believe that we have to do this to stop the logging of such a precious forest. It should be criminal to be logging native forests like these in this day and age.

Dominique Chanovre, a permaculture consultant based in Perth, is suspended from an ancient jarrah tree on a platform about 20-metres above the ground.

Dominique’s platform is connected to two logging machines, also in Helms forest, which is preventing them from moving until he has brought down from the tree.

Dominique said, “Protecting native forests is one of the most effective and immediately available actions we can take as a society to reduce the impacts of a warming planet and create a resilient, survivable future for future generations.

“It only requires the Premier’s decision to change the forestry policy and create a sustainable plantation industry instead.

“I see a better future for everyone if we do this.

Siobhan Sutton, spokesperson for School Strike for Climate, is on the ground this morning in support of this action.

Siobhan said, "At this point it feels like we're in a truck that's driving towards certain demise. The climate crisis will affect all of us, but my generation are the ones that will feel the consequences for the rest of our lives if we don't stop this senseless vandalism.

Logging our future at financial loss truly shows the ridiculous lack of regard for my future. We must take action now to ensure that that future exists."

Helms forest is situated about 10kms west of Nannup. It has been the release site for endangered Black Cockatoos from the neighbouring Jamarri Black Cockatoo Rehabilitation Centre for the past 25 years. It is a very high conservation value jarrah forest and has been the subject of calls for protection from environmentalists and local residents for decades.

McCorkhill forest is further along Mowen Road from Nannup towards Margaret River. It is a highly diverse, ancient jarrah forest that is known habitat for Black Cockatoos, Quokkas and other wildlife.

Every year, about 85% of all the jarrah logging in the South West of WA becomes charcoal for silicon smelting, domestic firewood and mill waste. Only 15% becomes actual timber products. We need a rapid and equitable transition of the timber industry, which has been set out in the Forests For Life Farm Forestry and Landcare Plan.

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