

Common sense dictates salvage harvesting

Peter Ker's report on salvage harvesting operations (The money or the trees, 4 Feb) predictably weights in favour of the anti-timber lobby parading as conservationists.

Trite comments from Yarra Ranges' Councilor Samantha Dunn, a Greens candidate in November's State Election denigrate the timber industry's employment credentials her own municipality and in Victoria. Her selective quotes portray ignorance saying "there is no basis for those economic claims at all. (The timber industry) employs very, very few people in our community" and "logging is not an economic driver in that town (Healesville)".

VicForests regional office, the Victorian Forest Harvesting Council, Timber Communities Australia and numerous forestry contractors are based at Healesville.

Cr Dunn believes there is only one sawmill in her municipality, not three. The industry is more than mill employees; support industries, their employees and families all contribute to this vibrant industry; schools, sporting and community clubs rely on the industry for their continued existence.

19,500 people are directly employed statewide in forest management, harvesting, wood processing and administration.

Cr Dunn and her ilk demonstrate abhorrent disrespect for small timber communities. Peter Ker completely missed the most obvious reason for this major salvage operation – common sense!

Trevor Brown

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