

# Letter to the Editor

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5 October 2016

*Letter in response to Caitlin Fitzsimmons' article in The Sydney Morning Herald*

## **Australians are looking for balance in native forests**

The views presented by Caitlin Fitzsimmons ([“Native Forests are worth more unlogged, so why are we still cutting them down”](#): SMH 5/10/16) are in stark contrast to sensible global green groups.

Most Australians understand that the forest wars are over. They see that the environment has been protected and a balance has been struck.

Australia has 125 million hectares of native forests, only 7.5 million hectares are “multiple use management zones” (which includes access for forestry). In any given year harvesting takes place in less than 0.5% of that 7.5 million hectares. Australia leads the world in sustainable native forestry.

The sensible global green groups, such as WWF, say the world is using non-renewable resources at a staggering rate and we must use more timber - which is renewable, recyclable and in Australia, sustainable. The heavyweight environmentalists who attended the recent Paris COP on climate change, demanded a focus on increasing forest resources in places where there is no deforestation. Yes, places like Australia, where we regenerate everything after harvest. Australian native and plantation forestry managers re-sow or replant about 60 million trees a year!

Australians are over extreme policy approaches.

Surely it's time we all took a balanced view.

**Ross Hampton**

**Chief Executive Officer, Australian Forest Products Association (AFPA)**

**Media Contact:** Yelena Ramli  
AFPA Communications and New Media Officer  
(m) 0409 962 250 (e) [yelena.ramli@ausfpa.com.au](mailto:yelena.ramli@ausfpa.com.au)