

The Institute of Foresters of Australia

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Are conservation and production mutually exclusive?

Australian Forestry journal - Guest editorial released

The conservation debate in Australia in recent times has largely been about tenure, with many people assuming that simply designating an area as national park is sufficient to ensure good conservation outcomes. This naïve view is compounded by the commonly-held belief that conservation and production are mutually exclusive: that tenuring forest within national park is the only valid form of conservation and that all forest outside national park is used for production and has little conservation value. This view is ignorant of the reality, and of alternative conservation approaches such as the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve model that avoids many of the conflicts that may arise when national park abuts agricultural production or urban infrastructure.

The reality is that resource and other constraints mean that in many cases national park tenure means 'fence and forget' and leaves forest vulnerable to weeds, feral animals and wildfire. The reality is that most organisms depend on habitat, not on tenure, and that failure to manage (including both neglect and mismanagement) leads to habitat change that may be detrimental to target fauna and flora.

The guest editorial in *Australian Forestry* Vol 75(1) by Jerry Vanclay of Southern Cross University, takes us on an introspective journey in the wake of the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Agriculture, Resources, Fisheries and Forestry report 'Seeing the Forest Through the Trees'. Professor Vanclay suggests that the two "great challenges" from the report "are to advance the recommendations towards better policy, and to avoid the piecemeal approach that is too often taken as the easy interim settlement."

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Also included in <i>Australian Forestry</i> Vol 75(1)	
The effect of gap size on growth and species composition of 15-year-old regrowth in mixed blackbutt forests <i>Matthew Kinny, Chris McElhinny and Geoff Smith</i>	Variation in green density and moisture content of radiate pine trees in the Hume region of New South Wales <i>Julian Moreno Chan, J.C.F. Walker and C.A.Raymond</i>
Contested forestries, contested educations: a centenary reflection <i>John Dargavel</i>	Fire management strategies for <i>Pinus radiata</i> plantations near urban areas <i>A.G.Bartlett</i>
Sorting Eucalyptus <i>nitens</i> plantation logs using acoustic wave velocity <i>R.Farrell, Trevor C. Innes and Christopher E. Harwood</i>	Analysis of the resourcing and containment of multiple remote fires: The Great Divide Complex of fires, Victoria, December 2006 <i>G.J.McCarthy, M.P.Plucinski and J.S.Gould</i>

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