



## tasmanian conservation trust inc

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Letters  
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### **Response to Senator Abetz**

Senator Eric Abetz ('Refreshing view', 20 September) has misrepresented John Lord's comments ('Soapbox', 14 September) and the research he bases them on, by claiming that biodiversity is better in managed (or logged) forests than in those that are simply locked up. The Senator falsely insinuates that Mr Lord claimed that all logging methods are beneficial for all forest types.

Mr Lord actually said that: "where my family is actively managing native forests (sic through selective logging), the biodiversity is better than where similar forest is simply locked up."

Mr Lord and the research he bases his statement on does NOT:

- say that selective logging benefits all forest types (some types would be damaged);
- justify logging of the old growth forest; or
- suggest that similar benefits would result from clearfelling.

The researchers also admit they didn't look at the impact of selective logging specifically on birds and mammals which require hollows in oldgrowth trees.

The research, published in "Biodiversity: Integrating Conservation and Production", concluded that some elements of biodiversity of selectively logged forest on Mr Lord's property were comparable with his undisturbed old growth forest but not better. They found that thinning regrowth forest which had previously been heavily cut-over "favours recruitment and variety of lifeforms in the understorey".

The study supported the use of selective logging as a surrogate for natural disturbances to increase some elements of diversity of regrowth forests. Although not tested by the study, a cool fire may have had a similar result in stimulating plant recruitment.

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Mr Lord's forest management approach has much to teach other forest managers and it should not be misrepresented by Senator Abetz for political gain.

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