

To whom it may concern; both as a private citizen and as a forest worker I travel all over Victoria and I see a whole lot of bush. Much of where I travel has amazing ecosystems and much has been protected with reserves and parks. It continually surprises and dismays me that the incredible remnants of one of the world's great forests in the Strzelecki Ranges has virtually no protection and is being strip mined for timber by a short term interested multinational. If rainforest mountain ash is to be harvested it should only go for mill logs, not pulp. What is occurring in the Strzeleckis is a disgrace, pure and simple. Thanks to the diligence of the replanting teams led by Her Majesty's Morwell River Reafforestation Prison and various Forest Commission depots we have a rainforest of international significance to cherish and preserve. Or we can bow to greed and short term vested interests, pretend it's a plantation not a forest and chip it for pulp. Surely now is the right time to make a proper sized National Park and protect a priceless environmental asset for ever. Yours sincerely Nick Mitchell