

# Kalimna Dialogue What's Next? (Sept 2022)



Engage • Explore • Change

The end of native forest logging raised questions about what the future of our forests will be: how they will be managed, by whom and how their health can be assured in an uncertain future. This dialogue was a chance to reflect on what's next for our forests.



## Engage

Over 40 people came together on 15-17 September, meeting on Gunnaikurnai country at Kalimna to discuss the future of our forests.

The dialogue was about creating a vision for the future as, in the words of Ngarra Murray, Co-Chair of the First People's Assembly, we need a 'healed and healthy country for all of us'. This was our starting point.

## Explore

A number of themes were discussed:

- Forest health was the major concern, and general agreement that major bushfires, less active management and intense harvesting in some areas has led to degradation. Defining forest health emphasised the presence of older trees, ability to see 100 yards through the forest, natural forest cycles, reproductive capacity and ability to recover from disturbance.
- Centralised and risk averse management including contention over 'lock it up' or active management approaches
- Incorporation of Traditional owner knowledge and engaging in an appropriate manner



Gippsland Forest Dialogue  
[www.gippslandforestdialogue.org.au](http://www.gippslandforestdialogue.org.au)

# Explore

## Fire.

- There was a general view that the health of country is deteriorating due to a lack of burning, and that we need to see change in how and when burns are conducted

## Alternate decentralised governance

- Need to ensure decisions are happening on country and in communities and not dictated centrally

## Alternate wood supply

- We need to explore the role of plantations as opposed to other sources of wood products, this to occur at a future dialogue

## Other concepts discussed included:

- Truth telling and transparency to build trust
- Landscape scale or holistic management
- Capability and funding
- Policy and legislation reform

## Fracture lines (points of disagreement or uncertainty between stakeholders):

- Passive vs Active management
- The existence of crisis - ecological, climate or biodiversity driven
- The impact of fire and role of planned fire
- The impact of logging and role of extraction

# Change

So what can we do? The dialogue explored opportunities for collaborative action.

- Communicate more clearly what GFD is and what we do
- Establish working groups to follow up on themes: Healthy forests, Policy, Accountability (Governance) and First Nations
- Conduct Fracture line specific dialogues to tackle points of contention and hard conversations
- Promote legislative reform

The major takeaway was, that in a post timber future, forest health is the primary aim of forest stewardship



Scan the QR code to see a short video of the Dialogue and what participants thought



## Summary

The dialogue revealed that in a post timber harvesting context, forest health and resilience must be the primary aim of forest stewardship. This includes effectively accounting for the value of ecosystems services, valuing traditional owner and local community knowledge and reforming legislation for a new future. There is also a desire to devolve decision making to a local level whilst adopting a holistic, whole of landscape approach.