

# Last logging list

TONY PRYTZ

THE State Government has released its plans for the Otways' last logging season.

Logging in the Otway bush will be illegal this time next year after the sole remaining licence runs out.

But a long-time anti-logging campaigner yesterday said he was disappointed by the list of coupes in the new logging plan.

Simon Birrell, of the Otway Ranges Environment Network (OREN), said several with

high tourist and scenic values were included.

"With logging ending, what we have been trying to do is stop them logging in areas that have tourist potential," Mr Birrell said.

"We have always said tourism is of more value to the Otways than logging."

Mr Birrell named the troubling coupes as along the Lavers Hill-Cobden Rd, Old Colac Tree Rd and Mt McKenzie Rd.

"These are beautiful areas with stands of mountain ash close to the road," he said.

**'With logging ending, what we have been trying to do is stop them logging in areas that have tourist potential.'**

— Otway Ranges Environment Network's SIMON BIRELL

"If you log them you just trash the area and get rid of any tourist value."

Mr Birrell said the three roads could be promoted as tourist drives and that OREN would make a submission to have the areas taken off the list.

"We are just a bit worried that with Steve Bracks gone the bureaucrats might be

thinking they can do what they like," he said.

"The WUP (Wood Utilization Plan) is for 27,000 cubic metres of hardwood logs, but I think the contractor would cut about half that amount, so we want to make sure they get the logs from other areas."

Mr Birrell said his group had not stopped monitoring of the Otways just because there was

legislation in place to end logging.

"It's not over until it's over," he said.

The last contract to log the Otways is held by Colac sawmiller E.T. and E. W. Murrane.

Company director Lee Murrane yesterday said he had no comment.

Other mills took state government incentive packages to hand in their licences.

The State Government has allocated \$2.7 million to help communities adjust to the end of logging.