

Environmentalists get ready for summer logging blockades

Prepared to protest

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ENVIRONMENTALISTS are prepared to blockade logging in the Otways again this summer.

Otway Ranges Environment Network spokesman Simon Birrell yesterday said the draft list of logging coupes published by the State Government last week had generated concern among environmentalists.

He said people were particularly worried about a coupe known as Rappa on the Lavers Hill-Cobden road.

"I think there would probably be people who would be

prepared to go out and blockade it," he said.

Lavers Hill resident Barbara Baird yesterday said she was determined to fight the logging of the Rappa coupe, which adjoins her land about 2km from Lavers Hill.

"I could not believe it when I saw the *Geelong Advertiser* last week," she said.

"I thought this issue had been dealt with, but now it is back. To log that beautiful bush would be a catastrophe."

The Rappa coupe was included in government plans in 2005/06, but then was placed on a contingency list after complaints.

Ms Baird said the area had been highlighted as having potential for soft adventure tourism.

"What tourists will want to drive along this beautiful road if they are looking at acres of felled forest?" she said. "The site is highly visible and covers 2km of the proposed tourist drive through superb mountain forest."

Ms Baird was also concerned about the effect log trucks would have on the district's road.

"There are signs at the start of the road saying it is not suitable for coaches and caravans, so how will it be with

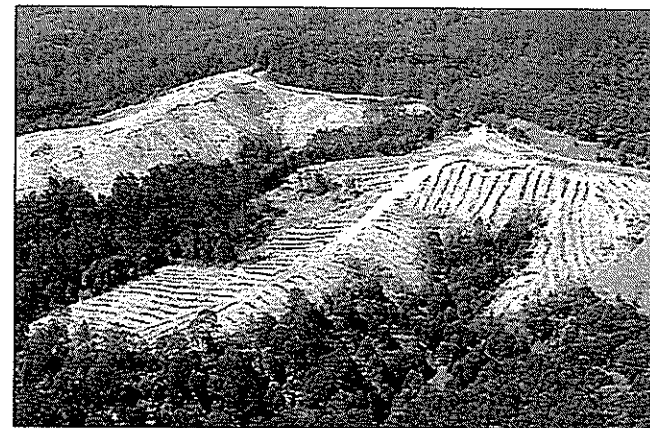
logging trucks on it all day?" she asked.

Australian Greens candidate for Corangamite Fiona Nelson yesterday called for an immediate end to logging.

"It is not enough for the government to wash its hands of the issue now the new Otways National Park has been proclaimed," she said.

A DSE spokeswoman yesterday said the logging plan had been put out for public comment and no final decisions had been made.

Logging can begin from November 1.



Logging in the Otways can begin again from the start of November.