

URGENT – Watershed Update July 24th, 2007 10:48pm

Dear Concerned Citizens of the Sunshine Coast

In spite of the earlier good news re: motion passed today by the SCRDR acting as a Local Board of Health, and many of you were there in attendance to witness this event, I just got off the phone in talking with Hans Penner and he informs me that he had not long ago returned home after visiting the cut block WC-021 (which straddles the boundary leading into the watershed).

Western in the past two days have completed the logging road into the watershed (for those who visited the blockade site, this road was where the camp #1 was initially set up on June 11th and prevented any further road building by Western).

Hans reported to me tonight, that despite the fact that Western was present at the 1st day of the Local Board of Health, and despite the fact that Western intended to make their own presentation to the Health Board, along with many, many concerned citizens of the Sunshine Coast, I must tell you tonight, that Western has decided to log the watershed portions of their timber license in cut block WC-021 and in fact have already felled all the timber in the watershed portion of the cut block.

The trees are, as I e-mail you, now lying on the ground. The damage has already started and Western has chosen to target the watershed portion of their cut block, no doubt to remove the trees before the SCRDR (local board of health) can issue a “stop work order”.

This decision and action is a “direct affront” to the citizens of the Coast and also sends a “strong message” to the SCRDR that Western intends to do whatever it pleases when it comes down to the watershed and also sends the message that Western could not care less about the drinking water for 23,000+ residents.

Shame on them! For their arrogant behavior and we should tell our SCRDR Directors that they have been shown no respect by Western and that they (SCRDR) should take immediate action.

As a minimum, the SCRDR should immediately inform Western that they are extremely disappointed to find out that they have gone ahead and logged the watershed portion of their cut block first, instead of logging in the non watershed part of the cut block.

Further, I think it is time for the SCRDR to get “tough” with Western and issue an “immediate stop work order” under the Health Act as they can do with the powers granted under the same act.

If Western wishes to challenge this “stop work order” in court, then let's support the SCRDR and go down that road.

Sorry to pass on such depressing news, but this is the truth that is happening on the ground, even as the SCRDR struggles to move forward and protect the drinking water.

Sometimes, things just move too fast and one must try to get ahead of the ball and take steps to arrest this fast forward movement.

Regards

John Bebbington
Volunteer
Concerned Citizens for the Sunshine Coast