

# Collusion in prosecution of forest protector

by Mark Graham

I recognise that the forests of the North Coast keep us alive because they provide the essentials of life; they are our life support systems.

I also recognise that these forests are globally significant and contain some of the most ancient and resilient forested ecosystems on Earth. Healthy forests provide clean and abundant water and they make it rain.

Because of this, our forests provide us water security in terms of the clean baseflows that are necessary for sustaining us, our economy and all ongoing cultural and environmental needs. Our forests provide a direct pathway to water security (our most critical societal need) in the face of escalating major climatic shifts.

Because of these existentially essential values and in a "triage" response to the clear, present and rapidly escalating extinction and climate crises, I dedicate my existence to better understanding our globally significant forests and striving for their protection. Most particularly for the conservation of the entire public native forest estate as a lifeline to a safer future for us all.

Starting in 2020 me and my family have been subjected to, and almost entirely come out the other end of, some truly horrific acts of crown-mediated terrorism and criminal, malicious, malfeasant and misfeasant wrongdoing by a cabal of public servants occupying multiple entities of Government including the Forestry Corporation of NSW (FCNSW), NSW Police and the Environment Protection



Mark Graham (4th from left) with Sue Higginson (at right) and supporters outside the court after the final verdict.

Authority (EPA).

25th June 2020 was a pivotal day in my existence. On this day a friend and I were assaulted on a public road on the Dorrigo Plateau by two Greensill Bros Pty Ltd contractors to FCNSW (the biggest logging and hauling contractors to FCNSW). These assaults were filmed by their FCNSW supervisor.

This operation allegedly involved illegal old growth logging adjoining the public road; being the subject of a live EPA prosecution.

Earlier this month, the two FCNSW contractors were found guilty of assaulting us, bringing to an end a fully corrupted 3.5 year-long matter. The FCNSW staff member who filmed the assaults

was not in court, despite irrefutably being a key witness to these brutal crimes of the crown.

In the aftermath of being assaulted in June 2020, we attended Coffs Harbour police station to attempt to report the crimes. We were told by the Duty Sergeant Wade Goddard, to "leave the police station", to stop wasting his time, and as we left, told to "get a job". At this point we engaged Sue Higginson as our legal representative.

Goddard was given the authority of the police to be the officer in charge of the "investigation"; this was despite us clearly communicating that we had no trust nor confidence in this officer.

His efforts culminated on 24th December 2020 with me being charged with a crime that I did not commit (Approach within 100m of logging machinery) and the loggers who brutally assaulted us were found to be acting in "self defence".

I elected to defend this matter and issued Freedom of Information (GIPA) requests and subpoenas. In early January 2021, Sue and I were afforded a viewing of the video at Coffs copshop by GIPA. It clearly showed vicious criminal acts and showed our peaceful and non-violent behaviour.

Goddard had refused me access to the video and spent likely tens of thousands of taxpayer dollars engaging external counsel seeking

to prevent my access to evidence over which I had a legitimate forensic need for my defence. I ultimately got the video, with his Honour finding the withholding unlawful.

When seeking to defend me in April 2022, Sue found that Goddard had withheld key email evidence showing collusion between Goddard and the Regional Manager of FCNSW, Tom Halliday to conspire to cover-up the criminal conduct of FCNSW and to seek to frame me. Goddard resigned and disappeared, and the case against me was withdrawn.

Over the intervening years, my family and I have been subjected to some seriously corrupt, violent and traumatising conduct by FCNSW, NSW police and EPA, best unpacked in a bigger future article.


Succinctly, this involved malicious and arbitrary incarceration, breaches of arrest laws, wrongful prosecution, massive defamation by the crown, home invasion by riot squad and the imposition of corrupt and punitive crown controls on my freedoms of speech and movement.

Fast forward to January 2024 and because of on-going efforts to seek justice and brilliant legal advocacy on my behalf, the clear criminality of the crown has been found in court. This represents a juncture at which I am able to be at peace for the first time in several years.

I am grateful for justice and extend my deepest thanks to the many who have supported us over the years (above all Sue Higginson, Eddie Lloyd and Ben Cochrane).

Now to protect the entire public forest estate, as we urgently must, to provide for a safe(r) future for all.

## Proudly powering Nimbin with Solar technology since 1987.



Contact us to find out how we can help you POWER ON through blackouts.

(02) 6689 1430 [rpc.com.au](http://rpc.com.au)

