**Protest outside Woolies – Saturday 6/9/2025**

It’s important that we understand this issue before we protest about it.

I spoke to Josh Meadows (media consultant) and Nate Pelle (Nature and Food Campaigner) from ACF (Australian Conservation Foundation) who gave me the details.

Woolies released a Sustainability Report last week and on it, they lowered the ranking of beef on the list. This means that they think growing beef in deforested areas is not as risky to the environment as it has been or as they thought before.

**We are arguing against that, saying that beef production is the main driver of deforestation in Australia and a major cause of habitat loss leading to the extinction of many animals. It’s just as much of a risk as it has ever been.**

Woolies will say that they won’t use beef from deforested areas and that it’s a part of their target to do so.

**However, this does not seem to be a priority; there are no plans to show how they will do this.**

Woolies will say that they are committing to other environmental campaigns instead of focusing on beef production. They are going to work on foods imported from overseas, like palm oil.

**We can say that this is great that they’re looking at other unsustainable products but beef should still be a priority. It is something they can control (within our country). Far more beef is bought by Woolies than palm oil products.**

Woolies will say that it’s hard for them to trace where the beef comes from. They buy most of their meat from processing plants, not directly from farmers (in contrast to the glossy pictures of Woolies people talking to farmers in fields which they use for their publicity!).

**We can say that Woolies can change that. They can show they care by dealing directly with farmers and checking the provenance of their products. In fact, we can say that they have a responsibility to do this.**

**Talking points:**

* We need these forests to be saved to make sure more animals don’t die, to stop the rate of extinction. Beef production is the biggest driver of habitat destruction and Woolies is one of the biggest buyers of that meat. If koalas become extinct (and there is a good chance they will in some parts of Australia, especially Queensland and NSW), it will be due in large part to the effects of beef production. Take responsibility for your actions, Woolies!
* Clear felling forests and land creates worse conditions for bushfires and floods. Forests are “carbon sinks” meaning they absorb greenhouse gases and store carbon dioxide. We all need to make sure we don’t make future generations pay for terrible natural disasters. Think of our children’s future, Woolies!
* Coles is doing the right thing and banning deforested beef. This shows it can be done. Lift your game, Woolies!
* Woolies is one of Australia’s richest companies, making a net profit of $1.6 billion last year. They can afford to check where their produce comes from. They should be responsible and act in our country’s best interests. Protect our country, Woolies!

Songs for Woolies’ protest – 6/9/25

**“Give me a home among the gum trees”**

Apologies to John Williamson

Woolies has changed their mind

They’re being so unkind.

They’re hurting us, they’re killing us

They’re cutting down our trees.

We’re begging on our knees

You could stop it now, with ease!

Help us! Save us, please!

Give me a home among the gum trees,

Where I can be free,

Away from the dozers and tractors too!

I just want my own space,

What’s happening’s a disgrace.

Help us! Save us now!

We really won’t survive,

It’s hard for us to thrive.

Fires, floods and heat

Too much for us to beat!

We need to get a break

There’s far too much at stake.

Help us! Save us please!

Give me a home among the gum trees,

Where I can sleep, please!

It’s just not fair that you just don’t care!

Why can’t people see

To live we need our trees?

Help us! Save us now!

**The Koala Song** – from Sydney Knitting Nannas, to the tune of “Wouldn’t it be Loverly”?

All I want is a home somewhere

Far away from the city’s glare

Don’t mind the cold night air,

Oh, wouldn’t it be loverly?

Lots of gum leaves for me to eat,

Lots of shade from the mid-day heat,

But I’m homeless on the street,

It’s not so bloody loverley!

Oh, so loverly sitting absol-blooming-lutely still.

Never had to budge ‘til trucks

Came roaring over the hill!

Slashing, chopping and hauling away,

More of our habitat everyday.

Hope they’re grateful for their pay

‘Cause it’s not so bloody loverly! Loverly…loverly…loverly…loverly..

It’s ug-er-ly!