

Dear VicForests and Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) Staff,

URGENT: Galaxias aequipinnis within the Arte River Catchment and less than 1km from 830-507-0023

This letter outlines the detection of the critically endangered East Gippsland Galaxias (*Galaxias aequipinnis*) downstream from a series of scheduled logging coupes in the Arte River Catchment (or the Kuark Forest Block).

Included within the detection locations is a population of the critically endangered East Gippsland Galaxias (*Galaxias aequipinnis*) within 1 kilometer downstream of scheduled (and “active” or “pending”) logging coupe 830-507-0023 (“Tin Shed”).

The location of one *Galaxias aequipinnis* population was at the following location in the Pikes Creek catchment of the Arte River system: 55 H 657877 5845048 (GDA94 UTM).

Logging within the catchment of this critically endangered species will seriously impact on the aquatic habitat requirements of this species and must be halted immediately.

VicForests must refrain and the DELWP must restrain VicForests from any further logging in the Arte River catchment as detailed above.

If VicForests does not intend to refrain and/or DELWP does not intend to restrain VicForests from logging within this catchment, including downstream of scheduled (and “active” or “pending”) logging coupe 830-507-0023 (“Tin Shed”), please inform me of this decision as soon as possible and no later than four weeks prior to the commencement of logging, burning and/or roading operations within this area, and provide VicForests reasons for not doing so.

Please inform me of any further decisions or actions taken by VicForests and/or DELWP concerning the presence of the critically endangered East Gippsland Galaxias (*Galaxias aequipinnis*) within the Arte River Catchment, and downstream of scheduled (and “active” or “pending”) logging coupe 830-507-0023 (“Tin Shed”).

Thankyou, I look forward to your response as soon as possible.

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