

Subject: Today's meeting
From: Fiona.Richardson@parliament.vic.gov.au
Date: Thu, 14 Oct 2010 17:46:14 +1100
To: mrtree@oren.org.au
CC:

Dear Simon,

Thank you for your time today.

For the record, I have not changed my view in respect to the need to end all logging in the water catchment areas.

It is a view that I have held since my mother started the campaign to end logging in the water catchments in the early 80's. She did this in response to then Hamer government's plans to commence full scale logging in water catchment areas. She formed a group called TAP TAP and as her 2IC I learnt a great deal about politics, a great deal about the catchments and a great deal about how to achieve important environmental outcomes. Back then, we didn't sell calenders (and yes, yours will be on my wall next year), we sold 'no junk mail' stickers. They're still available if you'd like to buy some!

As a Labor Party MP, I am obviously very proud that it took a Labor government, the Cain government, to rule out full scale logging of the catchments. And obviously, as my mother's daughter, I am also very proud of what was achieved by the TAP TAP campaign run out of my family's living room. It was even credited as the first environmental movement in Australia that contributed to a change of government.

Given my history and commitment in this area, it offends me deeply that any person would suggest that any male, either close to me or not, could dictate my thinking on this important issue or any issue for that matter. This is precisely the sought of prejudice that feminists such as myself have been fighting against for years.

All the best with the campaign. Rest assured I will continue to prosecute my view within the Labor Party and the caucus - to do anything else would be contrary to my principles and my history.

Best wishes,

Fiona Richardson MP
Labor Member for Northcote
Ph: 9481 5777

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