

Your Personal Invitation:

WE NEED YOU!

The Forest Embassy invites you to join us in a rolling campaign of national events that unite the voice of the Australians calling for an end to all Native Forest Logging.

We are reaching out to all Australians to gather a national calendar of events focused on bringing the forest agenda to the heart of the Australian conversation. You can create your own happening for the Forest Uprising, or list an event you are already running. Events can be small scale or even national in their scope. As long as the aim of the event is to draw attention to the need to protect Australian forests, we will publish your event, so that all Australians have an opportunity to attend and voice their concerns about the state of our native forests. Need inspiration? Jump to the ideas section on the last page.

WHO?

Q: Who can get involved? Can my group participate?

A: Yes. All environmental groups, student groups, activists and concerned citizens from across the nation are invited to host events in their local regions that express the point of view that it is time for Native Forest Logging to end. The only requirement is that your event must connect with an expression to the Australian Government that native forest logging must end.

WHEN?

Q: When does the National Forest Uprising happen?

A: The National Forest Uprising commences now and continues on until the Federal Election. The aim is to express to politicians in the lead up to the election that there stance on native forest logging is important and will sway votes. This is even more important in New South Wales which is also facing a state election in March.

WHERE?

Q: Where does the National Forest Uprising happen?

A: The National Forest Uprising is happening right across the country in a series of small and large interconnected events, from Parliament House to your local forest and everywhere in between.

WHAT?

Q: What kind of event can we register?

A: The National Forest Uprising is bringing together all voices from the country in a single campaign that unites the people of all parts of this vast land. Some people have listed tree sits, some people have listed eco-festivals, other people plan to write and sing songs, sign petitions, hold rallies and stage strikes. There is one requirement only, that your event must connect with a national expression to the federal government that it is time to end native forest logging.

HOW?

Q: How do I register my event, or link up with other events?

A: Visit <u>TheForestEmbassy.Org</u> to list your event and check for events as they go live. At present, the events are being generated by people just like you all over the country, who are planning the scale and scope of their involvement. We are a small group of volunteers, but as the events roll in we will publish them on the calendar and notify you when your event has gone live on the national calendar. You will still need to promote your events online and contact your local media to arrange coverage of your happening. We recommend that all groups support one another by regularly engaging and sharing the Facebook and Twitter events. The more people we connect with, the more hope we have of influencing change.

Q: Is there a petition?

A: Yes. **PLEASE SIGN AND DISTRIBUTE THE PETITION:** First step, sign and share the petition. Take a print copy to your local cafe and post it back to the Forest Embassy when the sheets are full.

NEXT STEPS:

CALL A MEETING: Call a meeting with your local crew and supporters to flesh out your ideas. Once you have decided what you would like to do, it's a good idea to type the details up into a pitch that can be circulated amongst your people. Write down your ideas and appoint a person to circulate the notes amongst your crew so everyone has a good idea of what the plan is.

APPOINT AN ORGANISER: The Forest Embassy will support your initiative in any way we can, but we are also a group of concerned citizens, and we won't be running your event for you. The good news is that means you retain autonomy of your event, but you will also need to appoint a responsible person to be the organiser of your local event.

WRITE IT DOWN: Once you have finalised your ideas, write a pitch for the your event into a single page document that people can print out and email to each other so you can connect with others who want to get involved. Create a Facebook event and tag the Forest Embassy so we can help get the message out for you. Email us the details and we will get started on listing your event on the national calendar.

PROMOTE YOUR EVENT: It might be best to appoint one person (or a particular crew for larger events) to handle putting up posters, inviting friends, telling the media about what's happening.

PLANNING: It's a good idea to hold regular meetings where people can polish up the finer details of what's happening as the weeks go by.

ORDER T SHIRTS AND POSTCARDS: You are welcome to order Forest Embassy Postcards to send out to groups or politicians, and t shirts to wear at local gatherings and events from <u>The Forest Embassy</u> website.

INSPIRATION: If you want to get involved but are not sure where to start, try a few of these kick starters: Citizen Science event at a local Forest - A bushwalk with photographs of special features of your favourite forest published online - A poetry and art contest which invites people to explore your local forest - Signing petitions - Ordering Forest Embassy postcards and having a mail out party - Holding a gathering outside your local forest to draw attention to threatened species - Marching on parliament - Joining up with a larger group holding an activity like yours in a different part of the country on the same day - Staging a strike - Holding a meeting outside your local member's office - Film nights - Camping vigils inside your local forest - Letters to the Editor.

THINGS TO NOTE: All participants are representing themselves and their own views and take responsibility for their own actions and personal safety and security. The Forest Embassy is not organising individual events, but will assist to promote and connect others to your local events.