

EVENTS: CORUNNA STATE FOREST CAMPAIGN NEWS 04.10.2018

Things have reached a critical stage at Corunna with the recording of a rare Masked Owl inside the compartment. To put things in perspective, 20 years ago there were 1500 breeding pairs left in existence. With the rapid decline in numbers since then, the Masked Owl is in deep trouble, and so are we, as Forestry have elected not to respond to the sighting of the owl. The EPA have checked and are satisfied that this action (or inaction) is within Forestry's rights under the Threatened Species License. Our only hope is to continue to ask people to help - writing letters, speaking to the media, making phone calls is our only avenue of hope to save this little creature. Masked Owls do NOT relocate readily to other trees. Once their tree is gone, so are they. At the bottom of this email is a list of who to contact to help with the campaign. If you have a friend who didn't get this important message please forward to them.

A lot of media coverage has been generated from the Funeral for the Forest. The Lone Drummer also generated a lot of interest for Corunna. We need more letters to the editor and many more phone calls to Andrew Constance. Penny Sharpe MLC has offered to act to protect the Sea Eagles, but the most pressing issue today is protection of the Masked Owl. The forest is now CLOSED to the public. Please follow the campaign on Facebook [Facebook.com/CorunnaForest](https://www.facebook.com/CorunnaForest)

1. The Masked Owl

Forestry have a CHOICE how to respond under the Threatened Species License Clause 6.4. Under the **Site Based** approach they are required to set aside 300 Hectares in response to **sighting** the owl inside the compartment. They have instead selected the second model, which is the **Landscape** approach, which requires NO RESPONSE to the sighting of the owl inside the compartment.

This model relies on large reserves of land elsewhere to be set aside to provide for the owl. The only other public land set aside is the National Park which is 30 Hectares, 10% of the offset required for the owl. The EPA have stated they Don't Know where this offset land around Corunna would be or if it in fact exists.

The community asked Forestry to stop logging so the nest/roost could be found. Finding the roost, which is nearby the sighting of the owl, would trigger the end of logging at Corunna. Instead, Forestry closed the forest - and refuse to allow citizen scientists to return to gather more evidence. The community have already located 3 owls and a raptor nest not discovered by Forestry.

2. JOBS

Andrew Constance has stated Corunna Forest needs to be harvested to provide local jobs. The community are monitoring the trucks leaving Corunna and very few are heading north to Narooma. Forestry is only required to supervise the forest for part of one day per week and have advised they are entitled to work any hours they choose - they are working late at night under lights and worked right throughout the long weekend.

3. THINNING EXERCISE

Forestry Corporation stated on ABC South East this harvest is more of a thinning exercise. In the areas around Brushgrove Lane that can be seen by the public the forest was hardly touched. In the areas being logged on the larger side of the compartment there are sections where barely a tree is left standing. (Photos attached).

4. SEA EAGLE

Sea Eagles use two nests and rotate between them. There is a 300m exclusion zone around the nest in use. Forestry confirm that as soon as the babies leave the nest, the exclusion zone reverts to 50m, and they are waiting for this to happen. As soon as this happens they will move in to harvest around the sea eagle nest. Most of the exclusion zone is out to sea. Most of the 50m exclusion zone (from high tide mark) is beach. Where do the sea eagles go next year? Where will they go during the time when they are flying but still using the nest, which will be most of summer, during the harvest?

5. ALGAL BLOOM

Forestry and the Marine Park authority have been given 3 scientific reports identifying concerns about the lake developing an algal bloom once the forest surrounding the lake is disturbed. The lakes are shallow and closed to the sea. They have been requested to provide a 200m exclusion zone around Corunna Lake, but say that there is no evidence to support anything more than 50m from high tide mark. There has been no study of Threatened Species in the lake. Sediment going into the lake at the warmer times of the year triggers toxic algal bloom which means no swimming, no fishing, no kayaking, and a complete fish kill as has happened before at TIlba TIlba Lake AND Corunna Lake. The Community asked for the harvest to be delayed until autumn when the lake temperature is lower and therefore the bloom is less likely. This was denied. The community are running their own water tests to monitor the lake, standing in water temperatures as low as 7 degrees Celsius to conduct the studies, to protect waterways that people are paid to protect in government jobs. The people paid to do this work have not sampled any water and have not announced any plans to.

6. Salvage and Return of Epiphytes

The community asked for permission to perform a salvage and return of rare Elkhorns to kick start their regrowth after the forest. Instead we were warned that picking plants is against the law. They are now dead on the forest floor.

7. Giants of Macquarie Street

The community named a section of the forest the Giants of Macquarie Street, and then named the trees after the politicians in Macquarie Street -then named more trees after past and present Prime Ministers, Premiers, and environmental stewards such as Bob Brown, David Attenborough, David Suzuki and others. The plan was to name the entire forest but the forest is closed now. Each person appointed as a special envoy to their own tree at Corunna Forest has been sent a picture of their tree, along with a request to personally ensure its safety. As the trees are now coming down it will be interesting to see who remains. Andrew Constance is certainly in a marginal place slightly outside of the protection of a 3rd order creek with a 50m exclusion zone. Scott Morrison is in a safer place within an exclusion zone. A heritage order has been sought for the Giants of Macquarie Street and the outcome is pending.

Dear friends of Corunna Forest

Thank you for backing us in our urgent quest to save Corunna Forest. In recent weeks many important developments have unfolded in this campaign, with countless newspaper articles and radio interviews, and two urgent mentions in parliament this week.

Response to the Masked Owl

In response to the sighting of a rare Masked Owl inside the logging area of Corunna, Forestry Corporation responded by doing nothing whatsoever about the owl and locking the community out so more evidence could not be discovered.

Response to the Marine Park Authority's advice

In response to the Marine Park Authority's advice to delay the harvest until Autumn and to increase the exclusion zone around the lake, Forestry Corporation responded by doing nothing whatsoever, despite being required to create a 300HA exclusion around the owl.

Response from Andrew Constance

When residents requested a meeting to discuss Corunna Lake, Andrew Constance responded by doing nothing whatsoever.

Response from New South Wales Parliament

Penny Sharpe met with residents at Bermagui last week and expressed great concern over the plight of the Sea Eagles at Corunna and the Masked Owl. Both Penny and Dawn Walker raised their concerns in Parliament this week, and Dawn Walker also wrote a stern letter to Paul Toole and Gabrielle Upton, urging them to respond to the Masked Owl. The Government responded to doing nothing whatsoever.

Call to BLOCKADE Corunna Forest

Residents are out of options. Despite Police Approved protests by the Lone Drummer which received page 4 news in local media with thousands of views overnight, there is NO RESPONSE from the government.