

**Letter to Ministers Parker and Burke re Tanja State Forest's koalas. Jamie Shaw
04.02.2013**

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Dear Minister,

The koalas of Tanja State Forest on the far south coast of NSW are threatened by logging of their forest for 6,000 tonnes of woodchips. This newly discovered population is critical to the survival of far south coast koalas, which are on the brink of extinction. Logging must stop now if this much loved animal is to have NSW a future in the region.

Recent Department of Environment & Heritage surveys across the far south coast have identified substantial increases in koala numbers in Tanja, Mumbulla & Murrah State Forests, indicating that koala populations are finally expanding into unlogged habitat.

In the next few weeks, in negotiations with the EPA and OE&H, the Forestry Corporation of NSW will seek to undermine existing protections for this fragile population to allow logging in areas that contain koalas. Any dilution or dismantling of protections for these Koalas will be disastrous for this tiny, vulnerable population and may see the disappearance of this iconic species from the far south coast. Pending an announcement of a ban on all koala habitat logging, I am calling on you to ensure that the existing prescriptions and exclusion zones for the koalas remain in place and undiluted and further, to protect the south coast koalas by prohibiting any logging activity in any new areas identified as containing koalas and in areas identified as core unoccupied habitat.

Can you please inform me as to what your department will do to ensure these Koalas continue to recover from previous logging land clearance and what guarantees you will provide to protect the existing prescriptions and exclusion zones for the south coast populations.

Yours sincerely

Jamie Shaw.