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Dear Stan,

RE: LETTERS TO THE EDITOR – “MAYDAY”

Yesterday was Mayday, the day that Forests NSW earmarked for the commencement of logging in Compartment 3047 on the Dromedary Trail adjoining the northern border of Gulaga National Park.

Forests NSW gave a commitment many years ago that they would consult with Aboriginal people before undertaking logging operations in any compartments adjoining Gulaga National Park.

On 19th May last year, an application was lodged with the Australian Government under Sections 9 and 10 of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984* for this compartment and others in the foothill forests of Gulaga to be protected from injury and desecration.

Dr Christos Mantziaris, Barrister, was commissioned by the Australian Government to undertake an investigation of the claims under Section 10 of the Act and called for submissions in July last year. A total of 14 representations were made to Dr Mantziaris and those making submissions were given the opportunity to make further submissions in October once all open submissions were made available to them.

Dr Mantziaris' report was due to be presented to Hon Tony Burke MP, Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, in mid December last year and we await his decision on protection of these areas.

In the meantime, any attempt by Forests NSW to commence logging in Compartment 3047 will be viewed by me personally to be an illegal abuse of process and an act of blatant vandalism and I will do whatever I can to stop such abuse.

Yours sincerely,

Seán Burke