

MEDIA RELEASE: FORESTS NSW "ABOVE THE LAW"

Bega Valley Greens Councillor, Keith Hughes has accused Forests NSW of being above the law when it comes to fire and logging.

Speaking at the Bermagui Forest Picnic Day last Sunday, Councillor Hughes said that anyone else lighting a fire like the one burning on Gulaga Mountain would probably be arrested.

Councillor Hughes said Forests NSW expects the public to take it on trust that they know what they are doing, despite mounting evidence to the contrary.

"Logging is carried out recklessly without a thought for the effectiveness of prescriptions to protect wildlife, stop soil erosion or siltation of waterways.

"Once the logging is over they just walk away without any checking to determine what effect it has had on threatened species or other environmental indicators."

About 150 people were present at the picnic in the forest to the north of Bermagui to celebrate the forest and protest about its imminent destruction.

Councillor Hughes commended the Bermagui residents for their stand in support of the forest.

"Residents have a particular responsibility to look out for nearby forests. If we won't do it, who will?" he asked.

(ends)

30 August 2009

Keith Hughes