

CHIPSTOP
AUSTRALIAN KOALA FOUNDATION
SERCA, South East Regional Conservation Alliance

Media Release 9 March 2010

HOSTILITY TO "KOALA LOGGING" GROWS

Opposition to logging of koala habitat on the far south coast is increasing with more than 120 people met in Tathra last night (8th March) to object to logging planned for several controversial forests in the Bega Valley area which are koala habitat.

Community hostility to the logging has focused on the fate of 30 and 50 koalas in Mumbulla Forest where logging may start next week.

Australia's leading koala advocate, Ms Deborah Tabart of the Australian Koala Foundation addressed the meeting, stressing the importance of gaining national threatened species listing for the koala.

The Tathra meeting follows a similar gathering at the town of Wyndham on Sunday that attracted over 400 people objecting to proposed logging of nearby Yurammie State Forest. Forest campaigner, Ms Harriett Swift told the Tathra meeting that while world woodchip markets are in decline there is no excuse for logging the controversial forests.

"We also believe Japanese paper manufacturers will be sensitive to the fact that their native forest woodchip imports could contain koala habitat," she said.

Ms Deb Harris, of the Yurangalo campaign told the meeting that Wyndham's water supply was at risk from the logging and that residents had lost all confidence in forestry management.

Resolution passed:

"This meeting expresses its outrage about imminent logging of forests Bermagui, Murrah, Mumbulla, Tanja, Yurammie, Gulaga and Tantawangalo, which are known to be koala habitat now or have been in recent years and should be available to koalas into the future. We note that the proposed logging poses a threat of regional extinction to the far south coast koalas and the trees to be removed will overwhelmingly be used for woodchips. We call upon the NSW Government to urgently abandon plans to log these forests."

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