

Media Release: Mumbulla Woodchip Protest - 4 Arrests on 49th Day of Protest Determined Community Will Not Give Up

Update 4.30pm 17 May 2010 Near Bega , NSW Australia

Three community and conservation protesters were arrested late this afternoon on the protest site, following the arrest of traditional aboriginal owner Louis Campbell who was arrested early today at the woodchip site on the lower slopes of Mumbulla Mountain.

Arrested were Bega Shire Councilor Keith Hughes, community environment and disabilities activist Jane Salmon and university student Ryan Castle. The Police Rescue Squad cut them free from logging equipment after the protesters had prevented any woodchip logging operations in critical koala habitat today. The three are being transported to Bega Police Station where police will charge them.

" We will be back," said Councilor Hughes. "The Australian community is sick to its stomach of the woodchip industry and the havoc they are reaping around the country. This despicable industry now wants to burn our forests for electricity generation, starting of course at the oldest chipmill site of all, Eden.'

Mr Campbell is understood to have been protesting that the woodchip operations were not only destroying critical koala habitat but were also disturbing a sacred burial site. - see link to arrest footage <https://www.yousendit.com/download/dXFYNnFOWkIzMWxjR0E9PQ> . Mr Campbell was wearing a koala suit at the time of his arrest.

The aboriginal man is closely related to the late and highly respected Gubbo Ted Thomas who campaigned for many decades for protection of all of Mumbulla Mountain together with the sacred Gulaga Mountain and the linking forests. For on site interviews:-

CHIPSTOP -- Harriett Swift -- Bega -- 0414 908 997

South East Forest Rescue - Lisa Stone - 0428 640 271

For further comment: -

CHIPBUSTERS -- Noel Plumb -- Sydney 0425 23 83 03

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