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Subject: BERMAGUI FOREST VIGIL PACKS A PUNCH

MEDIA RELEASE: BERMAGUI'S FOREST VIGIL PACKS A PUNCH

Over 120 people from Bermagui turned up on a cold and windy Monday morning this week to make a stand for our local forests, Koalas and loved Spotted Gums.

The frustration with Forests N.S.W. and the ongoing destruction of Koala habitat has boiled over. Bermagui is angry.

Townspeople are shocked by the most recent clearing on the western side of Wallaga Lake Road.

There are already reports of 5 breaches of Forestry's code of practise in this area. The promised "visual buffer zone" has been felled.

There has been logging in a sanctuary zone close to Black Lagoon. Debris has been bulldozed up against habitat trees, hundreds of Burrawang

(Cycad) plants have been pushed up to be burnt. A rainforest gully has been logged. The resulting siltation will go into Black Lagoon making it even shallower and permanently threatening the viability of an important fish breeding ground.

The promised (and compulsory) community consultation process has been a farce. Neither the Gulaga nor the Mumbulla Boards of Management have been contacted by Forests NSW in spite of there being critical cultural heritage issues surrounding this logging.

The community has no confidence in Forests NSW and now fears for the "Cathedral Trees" and the rest of the huge area planned for logging, including along the Cobargo/Bermagui Road.

Our wildlife, fragile remnant Koala groups and many other species struggling for survival after 40 years of industrialised logging will be driven closer to extinction by this relentless habitat destruction.

The people of Bermagui are determined to preserve what is left.