



*Recent logging along the Snowy Mountains Highway at Glenbog State Forest" Aerial photo by Richard Green [www.richardgreen.net.au](http://www.richardgreen.net.au)*

**MEDIA RELEASE: SOUTH COAST KOALAS DIRECTLY THREATENED BY NEW LAWS TO BURN FORESTS FOR ELECTRICITY. BY CHIPBUSTERS WITH PRUE ACTON OBE. 25 JUNE 2015**

Conservationists have warned that new laws passed in Federal Parliament this week directly threaten already endangered South Coast Koalas.

“We have less than 100 koalas surviving on the whole of the South Coast plain after 45 years of intense logging and woodchipping,” said Prue Acton OBE. Of Great Southern Koala Forests

“The new Federal laws pushed by Tony Abbott are environmental madness and a catastrophe in waiting for our precious koalas and other wildlife as logging native forests will now be allowed and counted as Clean Energy as a fuel source for electricity power plants.”

Our koalas are but the tip of the iceberg, wildlife throughout our native forests is already being systematically brutalized – crushed, suffocated and burnt - under the woodchip assault and many species are facing extinction.”

“In one dirty strike the Abbott government has turned the idea of sustainable, clean green energy under the Renewable Energy Target legislation inside out and promoted “Dead Koala Power” as the centrepiece of their climate change action,” said Noel Plumb of ChipBusters.

“With the support of an ineffectual Labor party and a number of irresponsible independent Senators they are burning forests as Clean Energy, effectively slashing the RET by some 20% and trying to cripple windfarm development across the country.”

“Certification as Clean Energy under the RET will give the industry a public taxpayer subsidy of millions upon millions of dollars while reducing funding support for genuine Clean Energy like wind and solar – a triple whammy as taxpayers subsidize forest destruction, extinction of koalas and the undermining of renewable energy supplies.”

“The industry and its political supporters continue to push the BIG LIE that only sawmill and ‘operational’ waste will be used for power generation – you only have to see massive trees being trucked into the Eden Woodchip Mill (90% of all the trees felled in the region) to know what liars they are. Whole forests previously unsuitable for paper pulp woodchips will be targeted by industry and State Governments desperate to prop up their loss making native forest logging operations.”

“These new laws will double or redouble the scale of the existing woodchip industry. Within a few years we could see not only dirty, polluting new wood fired power stations around the country but also ten million tonnes a year or more of fuel pellets or fuel logs made from our forests being exported to power plants in Korea, Japan and China.”

This is happening now in the southern United States where the hardwood forests are being clear felled, pelletized and shipped to massive new power plants in Europe despite public outrage.

Further comment: Prue Acton ph. 02 6494 5144 Noel Plumb 0425 23 83 03

High resolution photos of banner protest on lawns of Parliament House available on request; also Southern Koala - which you may have on file. High resolution photo of the above image also available.

Background references and reports on bio energy:

<http://www.forestsandclimate.org.au/bio-energy.html>