



South East Region Conservation Alliance

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Koalas Face Extinction without Forest Exit Plan

Koalas face extinction unless native forest logging ceases. With less than one hundred rare Southern Koalas between Narooma and the Victorian border, and the Native Forest logging industry in terminal decline, it's time to stop logging in State Forests and re-equip workers for new jobs in new industries. That's the message from South East Region Conservation Alliance (SERCA).

"Logging workers are well aware that the industry is dying, causing real pain." said SERCA Spokesperson Prue Acton.

"If we are to save our rare Southern Koalas from extinction, along with hundreds of other species, we need to reconnect and restore forest habitats. Government and Opposition must stop supporting woodchipping companies and make an Exit Plan from native forests."

Ms. Acton said, "Over forty years of unsustainable logging has left forests ravaged, waterways damaged, forests more fire prone and carbon emissions spiralling."

"There have been ten years of government and community surveys; there are less than one hundred koalas on the coastal plain between Nowra and the Victorian border. This includes a population in the Five Forests: Mumbulla, Tathra, Tanja, Murrah and Bermagui." said Noel Plumb

"The community have been fighting State Governments for years and have mainly kept them out of these forests; we believe loggers will come back after the State elections."

"A jobs package is vital, for restoration of our degraded State Forests along with scientifically proven fire prevention and to equip workers for the 21st Century industries: renewable energy - solar, wind, and wave; recycling; sustainable agriculture and the international drawcard, Nature based Tourism." said John Marsh.

"It's in our hands to protect forests so our children's children can enjoy beautiful coastal forests and the unique Southern Koala." concluded Prue Acton.

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Captions:

Seaside Fair Bermagui Parade 14 March "Big Koala" with John Reid, Sean Burke, Bronte Somerset and Prue Acton, wearing Save our South Coast Koala Tshirts.

Also see: Koala Media Release from Potoroo Palace "Koalas in our region are suffering..." and a photo of Sapphire, a rare Southern Koalas, born in captivity at Potoroo Palace, near Merimbula on the Far South Coast NSW.