



## South East Region Conservation Alliance Inc.

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[www.serca.org.au](http://www.serca.org.au)

25.12.09

The Hon. Kristina Keneally M.P.  
Premier  
Governor Macquarie Tower  
Level 39, 1 Farrer Place,  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Premier

The NSW Government is set to destroy one of the State's last remaining koala habitats on the far south coast in Mumbulla State Forest.

We understand that this logging is to proceed against advice that the remnant koala population in that forest needs to be protected.

SERCA is asking you to intervene to stop this logging proposed for Mumbulla forest and ensure that the koala has a future on the far south coast.

A NSW Government sponsored survey last year, conducted across all land tenures found a small, active population of about 10-50 koalas.

It seems the NSW Government is prepared to put the interests of the logging industry above its duty to ensure the survival of this much loved native animal,.

The disease Chlamydia combined with loss of habitat have contributed to a dramatic decline in koala numbers over recent decades, with the species now close to being declared endangered.

Numbers of koalas in Australia are now estimated to be only 73,000 across Victoria, NSW and Queensland. The koala population in South Eastern NSW was once healthy but in the last 100 years has been decimated by hunting for the fur trade, clearing for agriculture and by logging.

Forests NSW has not disclosed the starting date for the logging other than to indicate it will be early in 2010, no doubt anticipating protests from conservationists.

SERCA is also asking the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment Peter Garret to intervene.

Forests NSW is relying on the outdated and discredited Regional Forest Agreement for Eden that was signed in the late 90s.

The RFAs were never adequate, failing to take account of climate change or water. They have demonstrably failed to protect wildlife such as the koala in this instance.

RFA areas are exempt from the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC). Current drought conditions are affecting vast areas already deforested or degraded after two hundred years of European occupation whilst essential corridors allowing migration are gone.

The native forest logging industry is outdated and costs NSW taxpayers \$14.4 million a year. Tourism is a far bigger employer.

The true value of our south east forests is for carbon sequestration, water supplies and the resilience against drought and fire and climate change.

This matter is urgent and if our children are to see koalas outside of zoos, then you must act and save this remnant population.

Yours sincerely

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