

## **MEDIA RELEASE CHIPBUSTERS 12 April 2010, 7 pm**

BREAKING NEWS NSW, Australia

### **Contradictions Build in Koala Woodchip Protest**

Loggers at Mumbulla SF have finished working today.

A great many trees have been destroyed.

Activists have not yet left the National Park area in which they were trapped today as they cannot traverse a zone declared 'prohibited' by loggers without breaking the law. They have not directly been given an offer of safe escort by police, despite statements from a police media spokesperson which were reported on the ABC regional news.

Police apparently left the area some hours but the safe passage of the protesters is far from clear.

Protesters were in considerable danger in several senses today. Lisa Stone of South East Forest Rescue has reported that loggers were falling trees within 40 metres of protesters. This is a basic safety breach as safety regulations prohibit loggers falling trees within 100 metres of anyone present.

Further forestry breaches have been reported to the NSW Department of Environment by protesters today. These include the failure to mark and reserve habitat trees and 'recruitment' trees. State Forests now has a litany of environmental regulation failures in this amazing last refuge of koalas on the south coast of NSW.

"The community has boiled over with anger and protest at its unheeded calls to protect the forests. Not only is woodchipping going ahead in unbelievably sensitive areas like this koala colony but the NSW Government, with help from the Australian Federal Government, is about to approve a woodchip burning power station at the Eden Woodchip Mill, redoubling the destruction of the south east forests," said Noel Plumb of ChipBusters.

Photographs available.

Contact:

Harriett Swift -- member of group 'trapped' in National Park -- 0414 908 967

Prue Acton -- SERCA -- 0419 393 203

Noel Plumb -- ChipBusters -- 0425 23 83 03