



# SEFA

## South East Forest Alliance

Save our Forests – Save our Koalas

### **MEDIA RELEASE 4 February 2016**

#### **Penny Sharpe Inspects South Coast Forests**

The newly formed South East Forest Alliance (SEFA) has welcomed the visit of Ms Penny Sharpe the NSW Labor Party Shadow Minister for the Environment to jointly inspect south coast forests.

“We invited Ms Sharpe to see the devastating industrial logging and woodchipping first hand”, said SEFA Convenor Noel Plumb.

“Nearly 2000 people have written to the Opposition Leader Luke Foley in the past year calling for the Labor Party to support an end to all native forest logging and a rapid transition to a sustainable plantation based timber industry.”

“Over the past few days we have shown Ms Sharpe devastated forests from Batemans Bay to Bega including the last refuge of our near extinct south coast Koalas in the Five Forests area between Bermagui and Bega.”

“We hope that Ms Sharpe’s visit will initiate a serious discussion in the Labor Party to end its support for this “bastard of an industry” as the highly respected Labor Senator, the late John Button once said of native forest logging and woodchipping.”

“We have also shown her the amazing tourism and recreation economy now booming from Labor’s decisions under the Carr Government to substantially increase forest national parks on the south coast, including protection of many coastal lake catchments, and create complementary marine parks with sanctuary areas. The beautiful Durras Lake and the surrounding Murramarang National Park is an outstanding example of the success of these decisions.”

“This new economy and its further expansion is now under threat from the desperate intensive logging that is even now destroying the last pretence of responsible forest logging by removing roadside sight screens in places like the Princes Highway just north of Batemans Bay and at the top of Browns Mountain on the Snowy Mountains Highway outside Bega. The bared landscape is bewildering visitors and completely undermines decades of nature based tourism promotion. It belies the attempts to portray our precious landscapes as the Wilderness Coast and the Sapphire Coast.”

“The intensive logging and associated fire management has already driven our Koalas to the point of extinction. It also threatens many other beautiful, iconic forest animals such as the Greater Glider and the Yellow Bellied Glider that need big old trees with hollows. The logging and burning is effectively a vast patchwork of clear-fells over hundreds of thousands of hectares. This is churning up our landscape and silting up our creeks, rivers and harbours while adding significantly to global warming and climate change impacts.”

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