

Sent: Monday, August 17, 2009 8:55 PM

Subject: Bermagui forest: bushfire hazard over summer period

Dear Premier and Ministers

Last September ForestsNSW commenced logging two compartments of the Bermagui State Forest, literally on the edge of the town. With a break over the Christmas holidays the logging continued through the rest of the summer.

As the logs were removed a large amount of drying debris was left on the forest floor, a huge additional fire risk over a period of nearly 8 months, all through one of the worst bushfire seasons we have had.

We now face the same prospect again. ForestsNSW has confirmed that logging the three remaining compartments on the northern approach to Bermagui will start in September of this year. It is a disaster waiting to happen. There are people living very close to the boundaries of the forest, as well as in the town only a short distance away. We have a much valued Rural Fire Service, but it is seriously limited in what it can do.

With the sad experiences in Victoria last February, how can your Government in all conscience condone the creation of such a dangerous additional fire hazard to the 2000 people living in and around Bermagui?

Yours sincerely
Heather Kenway