

## FORESTS NSW LOGGING OF SOUTH COAST FORESTS THREATENS KOALA HABITAT AND CARBON STORAGE



Koala found in Mumbulla Ranges recently

On Monday 27 October FNSW started logging forests almost on the outskirts of Bermagui. Ironically these compartments form the gateway into the recently proclaimed “Wilderness Coast”.

The coastal forests between Bermagui and Tathra:

- form a critical link between the existing small koala colony in Mumbulla State Forest and other suitable habitat to the north.
- are valuable for carbon storage, water yields, protection of downstream estuarine oyster fisheries and for Aboriginal cultural and spiritual values.

Logging has commenced before negotiations with the Department of Environment and Climate Change on the publicly exhibited koala management framework have been completed. National Parks and Wildlife Service has been working on the framework ever since a remnant koala population was found in Mumbulla State Forest.

It is apparent that the Southern Regional Manager for Forests NSW hopes that the framework will allow FNSW to log, or at least be able to pursue activities such as roading, thinning, or burning, even in the breeding cells of these koalas. Starting to log in the same forests already ignores the fact that koalas can range up to 50 km from their home areas.

The prize for FNSW in logging these Bermagui compartments is the 80 year old spotted gums. This is despite the fact that research completed in 2007 has shown that it is the 150 – 400 year old trees in natural forests that are by far the most efficient at storing carbon for

us. These spotted gums have already stored carbon and are more than half way to reaching the most efficient stage of their life cycle. With the bid to reduce carbon emissions into the atmosphere becoming more and more urgent we cannot afford to keep logging such trees.