

MEDIA RELEASE: Environmental Defenders Office Serves Summons On Forests NSW

1 Nov 2010

The EDO has today served a summons on Forests NSW on the grounds that Forests NSW did not obtain consent to damage the gazetted Aboriginal Place on Mumbulla Mountain.

Forests NSW began logging of the Biamanga Aboriginal Place, north of Bega on the south coast of NSW, in early April of this year, despite repeated calls by environment groups and the community that to do so would be breaching the law.

The Aboriginal Place was gazetted in 1985. This is easily verified by visiting the Department of Environment Climate Change and Waters website, clicking on Culture and Heritage and clicking on Aboriginal Places of Significance. This is a simple process that all developers must follow.

The site is regulated under section 90 of the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974, which states that anyone who, without first obtaining the consent of the Director-General, destroys, defaces or damages, or causes or permits the destruction or defacement of or damage to, an Aboriginal object or Aboriginal place is guilty of an offence against the Act.

The EDO are seeking an injunction restraining Forests NSW from further unlawful logging of the Aboriginal Place and an order that Forests NSW make good the damage.

The EDO are also seeking an order that the defendants, Forests NSW, attend a restorative justice conference.

The matter will be heard in the Land and Environment Court.

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South East Forest Rescue
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