

**MEDIA RELEASE: BERMAGUI FOREST FUNERAL SUZANNE FOULKES  
10.08.2011**

About 60 local people gathered on Monday morning at the sight of the destruction of our "Cathedral Trees" and walked into the devastated logging area.

The people carried wreaths to lay on the huge pile of spotted gums lying prone in the vast, totally razed "log dump". The mood was angry and despairing.

The gathering demanded to know why Forestry NSW had lied to them, as it was quite apparent that a great deal more forest has been removed than media releases from FNSW had repeatedly stated. There was no answer from either Peter Rutherford (chipmill) or Tom Halliday (FNSW).

The Environmental Defender's Office has recommended that this logging stop because the obligations under the licensing act have never been met, ( in part, consultation

with both Gulaga and Mumbulla Aboriginal Boards of Management )

giving the operation dubious legality. How is it that this Government department can override it's legal commitments without censure?

The community group carried many banners. The one Forestry NSW chose to "confiscate" said "It's All Cathedral"

A very large wreath was left on the entry to Bermagui township sign. This was removed shortly after by Mr Tom Halliday (FNSW).

There are two areas the size of 3 football fields within our "Cathedral" now and more than 60% of the canopy is gone

It is a heartbreaking reminder of the misleading spin that Forestry NSW have been telling us all since this logging began. In direct contradiction to his employers

(FNSW) statement's Mr Norman Wilton (logging contractor) has been the only person to accurately state the extent of the planned logging, which is now almost complete.

This forest (a juvenile forest before this last severe logging) will take at least 150 years to regain it's carbon storage, biodiversity and water capturing integrity.

The potential for this forest to support fauna has been obliterated.

The Logging Industry logs thousands of square kilometres of our forests repeatedly, every year.

When our town asked them to spare a few hundred hectares for the future the answer was a flat NO. When will it stop?

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