

LETTER TO EDITOR, LOGGING DESTROYING KOALA FORESTS, PRUE ACTON,  
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On Saturday Oct. 29, the Sydney Morning Herald Editorial called for the government to buy out the logging quotas of far south coast forests that are home to our last surviving coastal koalas.

With a population down to just 50 individuals surely a government can find a way to save the forests they depend upon?

Yes, originally hunting for dog food and pelts and clearing habitat for farmlands and towns decimated their numbers.

Now scientists know it is logging the forests of Tathra, Tanja, Mumbulla, Murrah, Bermagui and Gulaga that will cause their ultimate extinction.

A patchwork of national parks - usually on poor soils providing little nutriment - will not save the once widely distributed coastal koalas.

And now we know that logged forests are dryer and much more fire prone than unlogged ones – a further danger to both koalas - and humans.

The very small number of jobs in the loss making business of native forest woodchipping our natural forests needs to be weighed against the opportunity to attract people to Australia's wilderness coast to see these magnificent coastal koala forests.

Bodalla Gallery has just opened an exhibition, Natural Forests – Australia's coastal wilderness. Will photographs soon be the only place to see our koalas and their forest homes?

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