



South East Region Conservation Alliance

www.serca.org.au
contact@serca.org.au
PO Box 724 Narooma NSW 2546

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Dr Christos Mantziaris,
6th Floor, St James Hall
169 Phillip Street
Sydney, NSW 2000

REPRESENTATIONS ON NOTICE OF AN APPLICATION FOR PROTECTION OF MUMBULLA, MURRAH, AND BODALLA STATE FORESTS

Pursuant to the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Protection Act 1984*.

Dear Dr Mantziaris,

I am writing in support of protecting Mumbulla, Murrah and Bodalla State Forests from any further logging and burning as requested by the Yuin people who live within this area and whose ancestors once did. These forests all contain places that are held sacred by the Aboriginal people and are of great Aboriginal heritage significance. They are steeped in the history of the Dreamtime spiritual teachings and are home to important historical events which stem from core of Aboriginal culture. To ignore the importance of these sites shows a lack of respect for the beliefs of these traditional owners of this land.

The destruction caused by the logging and burning of our native forests is extensive. Logged forests never return to their original state and are compromised to a great extent. There are numerous burial sites within this area. One burial site on Mumbulla Mountain, compartment 2135 which is contained in a part of the gazetted Aboriginal Place, was logged and desecrated in 2010 by loggers. The road leading up to the top of Mumbulla Mountain has a sign on the left hand side declaring that this site is owned by the Yuin people. However, the other side of the road, just a few metres away, is where the desecration of the burial site in the gazetted place occurred in State forest terrain.

We cannot trust Forests NSW to care for these immensely important culturally significant places. To dig up the graves of people is considered to be a crime by our Australian government and that legal protection should include the burial sites of Aboriginal people.

Many, many Aboriginal special places have been treated in a thoughtless manner. There is great sympathy in the community at large to establish protection for these places. Logging and the destruction from its wake must be stopped.

I am supporting the request by the Yuin people that their ancient land from Tanja to Bodalla be protected from logging in order to put an end to this destruction.

Australia is losing its native animal species at a faster rate than any other developed nation

in the world. Under the stewardship of the Aboriginal people, these animals flourished and became important in the culture of the Dreamtime. The biggest threat to Australia's native animals is loss of habitat. The logging of the animals' homes is a large part of this problem.

The logging of these forests must stop immediately. Every day that the State and Federal Governments allow this logging to drag on, 1,000s more native trees are needlessly sacrificed by an industry that should have been abandoned decades ago.

Please approve the protection of Mumbulla, Murrah and Bodalla State Forests.

Sincerely yours,

Lois Katz