

LAWYERS FOR FORESTS, INC.

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www.lawyersforforests.asn.au

December 10, 2001

The Hon. Bob Carr
Premier of NSW
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
Sydney
NSW 2000

Dear Mr Carr,

**PROPOSED SILICON SMELTER AT LITHGOW
SUBMISSION TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS**

I am writing on behalf of Lawyers For Forests, an association of legal professionals that is working to promote the conservation and better management of our remaining native forests.

Please treat this letter as a submission to the Environmental Impact Assessment process for the proposal to log the South Coast forests to supply charcoal for a silicon smelter at Lithgow. We understand that the consultation period will be run over the Christmas period when many people will be unable to make submissions. We believe that this is not an acceptable way to conduct public consultation, but would like our opinions to be taken into consideration in any event.

Lawyers for Forests is very concerned at the proposal. We understand that this proposal will involve taking another 200,000 tonnes a year of forest, which represents more than double the present level of logging.

The claim that the wood will simply be logging waste no longer holds any credibility among the community. Lawyers for Forests understands the complex economic reasons behind allowing so-called 'waste' to be woodchipped, and totally rejects this characterization of our precious forests.

LFF urges you to reject the smokestack plant on the Nature Coast near Batemans Bay in light of, among other things, the value of the forests for other industries operating in the area, most notably the lucrative tourism industry. LFF understands that over 6000 people are employed in tourism in this region, one of Australia's most important nature based

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tourism areas and that the proposal threatens this vital industry (South East Forest Alliance Letter of December 2001)

We ask you to :

- reject the proposal to log and burn the South Coast forests, or any forests, for charcoal;
- reject smokestack industries such as a charcoal plant on the South Coast
- complete the promised comprehensive system of national parks, including unprotected icon forest and wilderness areas such as Monga, Deua, Badja and Tallaganda; and
- at a minimum, to immediately assist the industry in a socially responsible manner to move out of high conservation area forests, water catchment areas, areas in which tourism is a valuable industry.

I would be happy to discuss this issue with you on behalf of Lawyers for Forests, Inc, and can be contacted on the telephone numbers, or by email, as below.

Yours sincerely,

Juliet Forsyth
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Lawyers for Forests, Inc.

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