

# Australia-wide March for Forests

by Dailan Pugh, North East Forest Alliance

On Sunday 24th March, over 500 people marched through Lismore to send a message to local member Janelle Saffin to stop logging of public native forests.

This was part of a National Day of Action to stop logging of native forests organised by the Bob Brown Foundation that saw 7,500 people march at nine locations around Australia.

With logging of public native forests being stopped in Victoria, Western Australia and south-east Queensland this year, the focus is on NSW and Tasmania to follow suit.

Hopes were raised in NSW a year ago when the election resulted in The Greens and sympathetic independents holding the balance of power in the new Minns government.

Unfortunately, the ALP have simply continued the draconian forestry practices developed by the National Party when they ruled, including those resulting from the Nationals' 2020 war on koalas.

Before the election the ALP differentiated themselves from the National Party by promising to establish a Great Koala National Park, covering up to 176,000 ha of State forests inland from Coffs Harbour.

An assessment is underway, meanwhile logging of important koala habitat continues, to the detriment of koalas and dismay of locals.



Elder Roy Gordon addresses the march.  
Photos: Chibo Mertineit

Elsewhere, the ALP have no intention to protect koala homes on State forests. In the Richmond catchment, logging of known koala strongholds continues unabated in Braemar and Myrtle State forests.

At the Koala Summit on 22nd March, the dismay and frustration of koala advocates with the ALP's refusal to redress the draconian policies of the National Party was palpable. There was majority support for motions to place a moratorium over logging in the proposed Great Koala National Park, and to stop logging of occupied koala habitat on State forests.

As the climate heats, logging imperils the

survival of a growing array of species, dries forests, increases fire risk, spreads lantana, releases stored carbon, and costs us tens of millions of dollars every year in subsidies.

It is clear that most people want logging of public native forests to stop. The principal problem is that the ALP are beholden to the logging unions.

Our challenge is to convince Janelle Saffin that rather than paying loggers to degrade forests and kill koalas, we would be better off paying them to repair some of the damage they have done by removing lantana, fixing dieback, repairing erosion, and putting up nest-boxes.

The quality of the lives of future generations



depends upon us urgently restoring the health and vitality of our forests, increasing their resilience to climate changes, and maximising their ability to remove our carbon from the air and store it out of harm's way in their trunks and soils.

See also Sue Higginson's column on p.11

LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL!

# MandiGrass

3rd - 5th May 2024

1993 - 2024

[www.nimbinmandigrass.com](http://www.nimbinmandigrass.com)

## Use our **online calculator** to design your dream On-Grid or Off-Grid Solar System.

Discover how we can help you gain energy independence.

(02) 6689 1430 [rpc.com.au](http://rpc.com.au)

