



GREEN PREMIER TURNS CHARCOAL BLACK



Premier Bob Carr

“ BOB CARR DON’T BURN OUR FORESTS ” – “ NO CHARCOAL ” – “ NATIVE FORESTS ARE FULL OF LIFE ” AND “ WOODCHIPPING FORESTS IS UNWISE ”.

These banners unfurled at Sydney Domain as crowds gathered to hear Greens MLC Ian Cohen, Clover Moore, Noel Plumb and Chris Kowal speak. The tripod symbol of the forest conservation movement is mounted on the stage, live music plays, and the colourful banners are suspended high over the stage. Throughout the crowd are local groups from Batemans Bay, Moruya, Mogo, Ulladulla, Nowra, Narooma, Queanbeyan and many other places – all calling on Premier

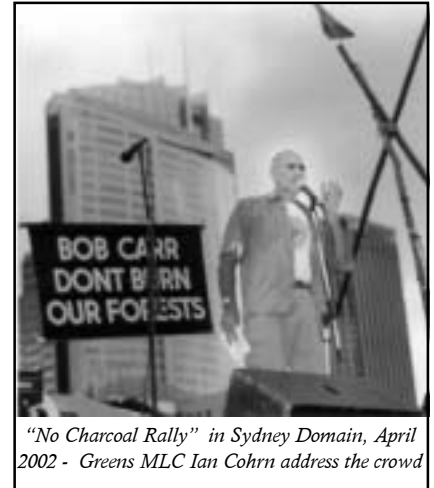
by Noel Plumb*

Carr to stop plans of building a massive charcoal plant near Batemans Bay on the South Coast and not to woodchip and burn South Coast forests for charcoal.

A proposal to log and burn 200,000 tonnes a year of South Coast forests for at least 20 years has been put forward by the State Government. Clover Moore, Independent MP for Bligh, standing in as MC for the afternoon rally, says the proposal to make charcoal is ‘simply another massive woodchip operation’. The intended woodchip operations will extend from Narooma to Nowra and out to Braidwood.

Chris Kowal heads the Charcoalition, an alliance of community groups on the South Coast. He explains how communities there are overwhelmingly opposed to the massive smokestack plant and the devastating impacts it will have on the main regional industry, nature based tourism, as well as the local air and water quality, health and amenity.

Ian Cohen MLC Greens and Arthur Chesterfield Evans MLC Democrats delivered strong messages of support. Glen Klatovsky of the Wilderness Society wound up the rally with a call for strong action. The audience unanimously supported



“No Charcoal Rally” in Sydney Domain, April 2002 - Greens MLC Ian Cohen address the crowd

motions condemning the plans to use South Coast forests, or any other native forests, for charcoal and called on the Premier to ensure the charcoal plant is not approved.

Why, after seven years under a Premier elected on the strength of his promises to stop woodchipping and save the forests are we in this situation? It’s a question many dedicated conservationists are asking as well as “Why Vote Labor?” as the next State election looms. *More information in conservation report page 8.*

*Noel Plumb is convenor of The South East Forest Alliance, a former Executive Officer of the National Parks Association and is a current national councillor of The Australian Conservation Foundation.

REMOVAL OF FERAL HORSES FROM KOSCIUSKO NATIONAL PARK

David Campbell, NSW Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs representative on the WHMSC

Numbering around 3000 - 4000, the impact of feral horses are a major issue in Kosciusko National Park. While primary concentrations are in the southern end of KNP, including Cowombat Flat, The Pilot, Tin Mine Hut and The Big Boggy, numbers are also increasing in the northern end of the park with horses also moving into the ACT. A major issue in the last three years has been the movement of feral horses via the Rams Head up onto the main range.

While feral horses have an iconic importance, so too do the Australian Alps. Any trade-off between the two has to be considered in light of there being 337 000 to 600 000 feral horses in Australia, more than in any other country (an analogous story to rabbits?), while only 0.01 of the Australian land mass is alpine (the proportion that is sub-alpine is larger than this, but is still an important and a relatively small proportion of the overall land mass).

Substantial environmental damage occurs as a result of feral horse activity in alpine and subalpine areas. The pugging of wet areas and damage to plant and animal bog and wetland communities by breaking the side banks of marshes, forming wallows, and tracks that go through and drain these low lying areas. The horse tracks change the hydrology by compacting the soil, intercepting run-off and channelling water along the tracks. All of this impacts the ecology, plant and animal species

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