



The Coastwatchers Association Inc.

CHARCOALITION

PO Box 521 Batemans Bay NSW 2536 www.charcoalition.forests.org.au mogocharcoal@bigpond.com

COMMUNITIES & BUSINESSES FOR A CHARCOAL-FREE SOUTH COAST

MEDIA RELEASE

ENDANGERED SPECIES

Several species listed in the NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act have been found in the area around the proposed charcoal factory site. They are the Yellow-bellied Glider, the Glossy Black Cockatoo and the Powerful Owl.

The proposal will significantly impact on the Yellow-bellied Glider and its predator, the Powerful Owl, by removing critical habitat resources such as sap feeding trees and hollow bearing trees suitable for den and nest sites. Under the TSC Act a species impact statement is required.

The Yellow-bellied Glider's local populations and habitat corridors have been studied by Gaia Research Pty Ltd.(Aug 2001) The study focused on this forest dependent species which lives in relatively stable territories (ranging in area from 30 to 65 hectares) and requires blocks of near connected forest for dispersal and gene exchange

The NSW NPWS said that there is a "pressing need to derive a Shire-wide conservation strategy for the Yellow-bellied Glider" in coastal forests. Removing connecting forest in the area of the proposed factory may significantly impact on the species by altering critical habitat resources and further isolating breeding populations.

The proposed charcoal factory will also have off-site impacts, as it requires high volumes of timber. NSW State Forests says that this timber will be defective trees, or residues from saw log extraction. Old, hollow bearing tree have been identified as being critically important for forest dependent fauna (Recher H.F 1991, Scotts D.J. 1981). Their drastic depletion will further endanger vulnerable species.

The proposed Charcoal Factory would undermine initiatives designed to boost economic and ecologically sustainable regional development by destroying the habitat of these threatened species.