



THE COASTWATCHERS ASSOCIATION INC.

CHARCOALITION

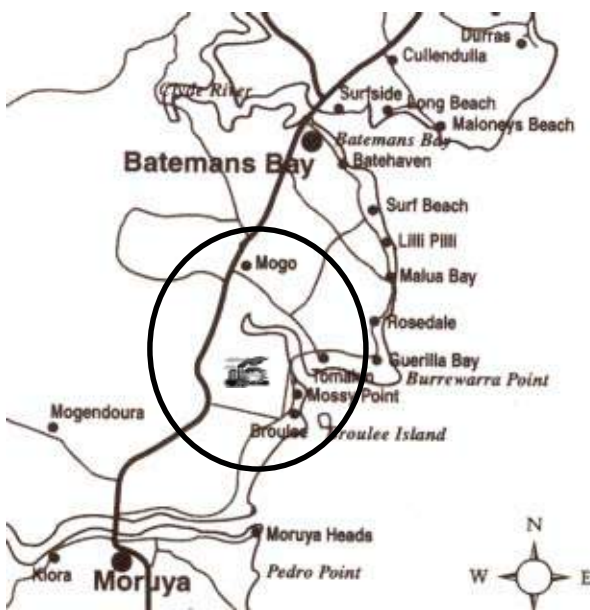
COMMUNITIES & BUSINESSES FOR A CHARCOAL-FREE SOUTH COAST

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MAY DAY, MAY DAY !!, Politics and Big Business vs Truth

On Wed 1 May the NSW Minister for Planning gave the green light by granting conditional approval to build a heavy industry charcoal factory between Broulee and Mogo (see map for approximate position). The announcement was timed to coincide with Premier Carr's visit to Lithgow.



MEET THE NEW NEIGHBOURS!



A few days prior to the announcement, *planning NSW* told callers the decision would be a few weeks away as they were still waiting on reports.

The Environment Protection Authority said that they were still waiting for the company to supply information on pollution control.

Ineffective Conditions

One change is the doubling of the size of the dam on the site and no use of town water for "production purposes". Since the dam will probably be kept as

full as possible to supply the factory it will have no effect on preventing run-off to the wetland in times of heavy rain.

The Minister says all "processed water will be biologically treated on site ensuring no pollutants are discharged from the plant." Objectors argue there is no effective biological treatment available.

A condition on the approval requires charcoal and flux wood trucks (potentially B-doubles) to use the Princes Hwy and not the Kings Hwy. This will mean no reduction in traffic impact on Mogo and more impact on towns along the route such as Ulladulla, Milton, Berry and Kiama/Bombo. Residents in northern towns have had little if any opportunity to comment on these impacts of the proposal.

The conditions say sawdust and other by-products must not be burned on site. Will they be burned elsewhere in the region? Will the likely minimum of 20-30,000 tonnes of sawdust each year be transported via the Kings Hwy to Canberra as the company originally said?

Environmental Impacts on Forests and Catchments Still Ignored

The Minister's press release said "no tree will be cut down for the sole purpose of charcoal production. The plant is only to use residual waste timber - such as branches and stumps." But the wood supply document says that some types of trees are classed as waste because they do not have commercial value as pulpwood or sawlogs.

There has still been no environmental impact study of the impact of nearly doubling the volume of wood removed from the forests.

THE FIGHT CONTINUES.....

The community and its representative bodies will continue to fight. Charcoalition which represents communities and business for a Charcoal Free Coast, Eurobodalla Shire Council, Aboriginal Lands Councils, the local tourism industry, Batemans Bay Chamber of Commerce, Eurobodalla Greens, all regional branches of the Labor Party, are just a few of the groups that have campaigned for NO CHARCOAL factory on the NSW South Coast!

Legal Action and Fundraising

Objectors have 28 days to lodge an appeal in the Land and Environment Court. During that time the company can put machinery and materials on site but cannot start work. Once the appeal is lodged work cannot start until the case is finalised.

The Coastwatchers Association Inc. will lodge an appeal as soon as possible. Charcoalition wants your help with fundraising. To find out how you can help, phone the Charcoalition Treasurer, Margaret Allen 02 4471 2512, or email Margaret at mogocharcoal@bigpond.com

Please make a donation to the Charcoalition's Legal Fighting Fund. Donations can be made at any IMB branch - say that you want to donate to the "Coastwatchers Charcoalition account".

Alternatively, please post a cheque to Charcoalition Treasurer PO Box 521 Batemans Bay 2536.

Please direct inquiries about donations to Margaret (see left).

Protecting our future - Monitoring the Site

Can we trust the NSW Government? Australian Silicon are not allowed to begin work yet. To ensure that all involved are held to account, the community needs your help to monitor the site to ensure that no work is carried out.

Please phone Gerry 4471 5321 or email walliwird@batemansbay.com to see how you can support your community and help.

Non-violent Action

Workshops on non-violent action are being organised by Eurobodalla Greens. The next is on 12 May but they book out early so others are planned. They will be advertised in the media and on Charcoalition web site.

You can help protect your family and your lifestyle by training and getting involved. There are plenty of opportunities for "front-line" campaigners or by providing support doing videotaping/recording events, by supplying food, and in many other ways.

To be part of the non-violent action, or to book in for a workshop, phone Annie 02 44 722 700 or email florence@sci.net.au

Election Action

We will be strengthening and continuing to take the fight to all political candidates in the lead up to the State Election, not just in the local seat of Bega and South Coast, but in marginal seats in Sydney and elsewhere in NSW.

Media Action

We continue to urge you to maintain the onslaught on the media. Letters to editors, talkback, etc. New writers/talkers can help, especially if you live in a marginal seat and can say how this factory will affect you and your family.

Keeping up to date

Visit the Charcoalition web site at www.charcoalition.forests.org.au and register on the email news list.

If you have no internet access, watch the local papers. Newsletters will be regularly produced.