



Coastwatchers

Eurobodalla's voice for nature

20 September 2021

The Hon. Matt Kean, MP
52 Martin Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Minister Kean,

The Coastwatchers Association Inc is the leading community environmental and conservation group on the far South Coast of NSW operating from South Durras to Bega. We also work with community groups in the bordering Shires of Shoalhaven to the north, Eden to the south and west to Palerang.

We write to thank you for your announcement that there will be no appeal of the NSW Land and Environment Court finding that the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has a duty to take serious action on greenhouse gas emissions.

Many of our members lived through the devastation of the Black Summer bushfires as they threatened our towns, destroyed 80% of our native forests and wiped out millions of native creatures.

Some of our members lost their homes in the fires, others were at the front line post bushfire providing food and water for surviving animals.

We were all, and many still are, affected.

Accepting the decision of the court in the Bushfire Survivors for Climate Action case and saying that the New South Wales government would do “everything necessary to give it full effect” is truly good news that signals a major change in climate policy for the state.

Thank you for the role you have played in this important issue.

As confirmed by the latest IPCC report, the next ten years are critical.

You have indicated your intention to make sure the EPA has the required policies, objectives and guidelines in place to protect the NSW environment and community from the looming impacts of climate change.

Coastwatchers would like to point out that ending native forest logging on the south coast would greatly assist curbing New South Wales greenhouse gas emissions, provide sustainable employment through the growing eco tourism sector and give the forests decimated in 2019-20 time to recover.

Research by our affiliate Zero South East indicates that stopping State Forest hardwood logging in South East NSW prevents [1.7 million tonnes of CO2 emissions per year](#).

This represents around 30% of South East shires annual emissions.

Former Prime Minister John Hewson will launch the Zero South East campaign, promoting evidence-based research demonstrating how to reach our emissions target, create local jobs and still maintain a healthy environment.

Zoom Event: 5.30 Tuesday 21 September [Zero SE Website event link here.](#)

Yours sincerely,
Gillianne Tedder

Vice President
Coastwatchers

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