

THE HEALTH OF OUR COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT IS AT STAKE !

A May-day call is out!

On 1 May 2002 the NSW Minister for Planning gave approval for construction of a heavy industrial Charcoal Factory less than 3 kms from Broulee/Mossy Point.

Broulee is a small coastal village on the NSW South Coast 300 kms south of Sydney, near the last substantial area of natural forests in NSW.

History has shown us that with the dawning of each new metal age, whole forests were torn up to make charcoal for metal manufacture. The forests never recovered. Now, silicon – the 21st century high tech metal – promises to do the same to our forests of South East NSW.

A Western Australian company, Australian Silicon Ltd wants to burn 170,000 tonnes pa of native hardwood forests to make 35,000 tonnes of charcoal for use in silicon manufacture. The timber is to come from the public forests of the South Coast and Southern Tablelands, logged at highly unsustainable rates. The slow growing Ironbarks and Bloodwoods are particularly at risk.

The Silicon Factory would be established at Lithgow and operate for 40 years. It would consume 390 Gigawatt-hours of electricity, 35,000 tonnes of charcoal, 30,000 tonnes of flux wood and 80,000 tonnes of crystalline quartz each year to make 30,000 tonnes of silicon metal, 17,000 tonnes of hazardous silica dust, and vast quantities of greenhouse gases.

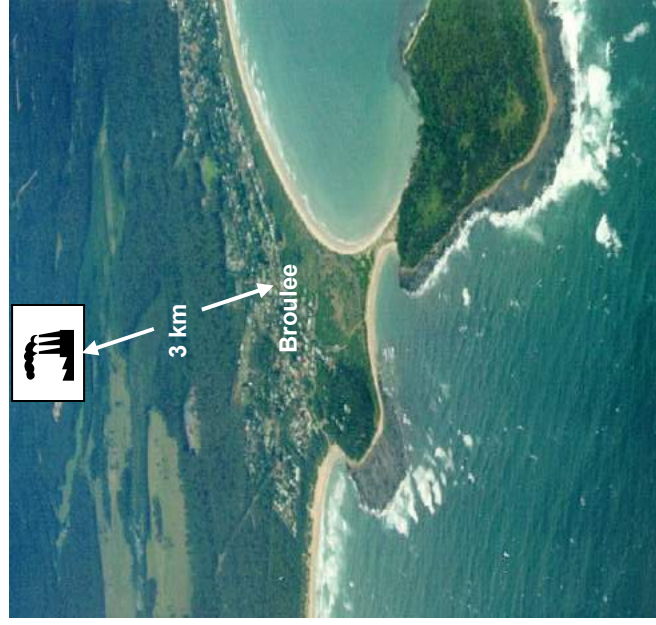
86 semi-trailers will enter or leave the South Coast charcoal plant each day, either bringing forest wood to the plant from various locations or taking charcoal and fluxwood along the Princes Highway to Lithgow. Most of these trucks will travel through Mogo.

The south coast charcoal factory, apart from producing 35,000 tonnes of charcoal, is likely to also produce (per annum):

- up to 20,000 tonnes of sawdust
- toxic waste, including pyrolygneous acid
- 57.54 kg of mercury vapour
- 108 tonnes of other air emissions, which could include dioxins, that may affect human health and contribute to the formation of acid rain, affecting protected coastal wetlands and villages such as Mogo, Mossy Point, Tomakin and Broulee.

If the charcoal factory goes ahead, the popular and safe swimming areas at Candlagan Creek in Mossy Point could become contaminated by water run-off from the site that will flow into the wetlands of Longvale Swamp which connects into Candlagan Creek.

IS THIS THE PLACE FOR A CHARCOAL FACTORY ?



STATE GOVERNMENT AND BIG BUSINESS HAVE IGNORED THE LOCAL COMMUNITY AND BUSINESSES

Members of the local community and businesses have come together as Charcoalition – Communities for a Charcoal-Free South Coast, and have gained wide support for their campaign to oppose the building of the Charcoal Factory. Local progress associations, numerous businesses, local organisations including Eurobodalla Tourism and Batemans Bay Chamber of Commerce have publicly expressed their opposition to this proposal. Others to reject this proposal include Eurobodalla Shire Council and Aboriginal Land Councils. Over 2000 people have attended public meetings about the charcoal proposal with the vast majority showing support for a Charcoal-Free South Coast.



2,500 people march over Batemans Bay bridge protesting against the Charcoal Factory

Despite overwhelming community concern, the silicon project was rushed through the approval process. Over 1500 submissions were received on a poor quality piecemeal Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) report, almost all stating opposition to the plant.

The campaign by the Charcoalition to stop the plant is being continued in the courts.

Furnace Future for Our Forests

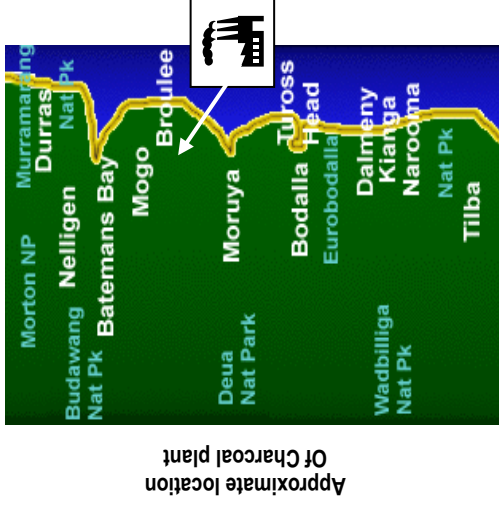
State Forests of NSW have entered into a 20-year wood supply agreement with Australian Silicon Ltd. This makes a mockery of the Southern Regional Forest Agreement (SRFA) which many scientists and others in the community believed was meant to deliver genuine ecologically sustainable forest management. The SRFA has obviously failed.

Viable Alternatives

Australian Silicon and State Forests see the precious old growth forests of the South Coast and Southern Tablelands as fodder for the furnaces. Alternative smelting technologies can save these last substantial old growth South East Forests. CSIRO are in the final stage of development of the Ultra-Clean Coal process which can provide a viable alternative to charcoal made from precious old growth forests.

Nature-based tourism is worth more than logging...

Eurobodalla Shire, for example, is critically reliant upon an unspoilt natural environment for tourism, which in 1996-98 was worth \$183 million. By contrast, logging in that Shire (1996-1998) was worth around \$1.5 million.



Approximate location of Charcoal plant

YOU CAN HELP SAVE THE NATURE COAST AND ITS PRECIOUS FORESTS

Please write, stating:

- ★ Your total opposition to building a charcoal factory, logging south coast forested catchments for charcoal and electricity generation, and the huge increase in heavy truck traffic on narrow country roads including the Princes Highway; and
- ★ Your support for the use of alternative silicon smelting technologies such as CSIRO's Ultra Clean Coal, and plantation or recycled timber.

➡ Premier Bob Carr (fax 02 9228 3935)

C/- Parliament House, Sydney, 2000.

➡ John Brogden – Leader of the Opposition
1725 Pittwater Road, Mona Vale 2103 (fax 02 9957 2145)

➡ Your Local Member

For more information, contact **Charcoalition**

PO Box 521 Batemans Bay NSW 2536

Ph: (02) 8250 0024

Email: mogocharcoal@bigpond.com

Website: www.charcoalition.forests.org.au

Produced by



The Coastwatchers Association Inc.

CHARCOALITION

Communities & Businesses for a
Charcoal-free South Coast

MEET THE NEW NEIGHBOURS!



HELP SAVE OUR COAST AND FORESTS NOW!



THE NATURE COAST IS SET TO BECOME THE CHARCOAL COAST!