

THE NATURE COAST COMMUNITY NEEDS YOUR HELP !

Residents, businesses and tourists to this area are having their lifestyle, economy and well-being threatened by the proposal to build a heavy industrial Charcoal Factory less than 3 kms from Broulee/Mossy Point.

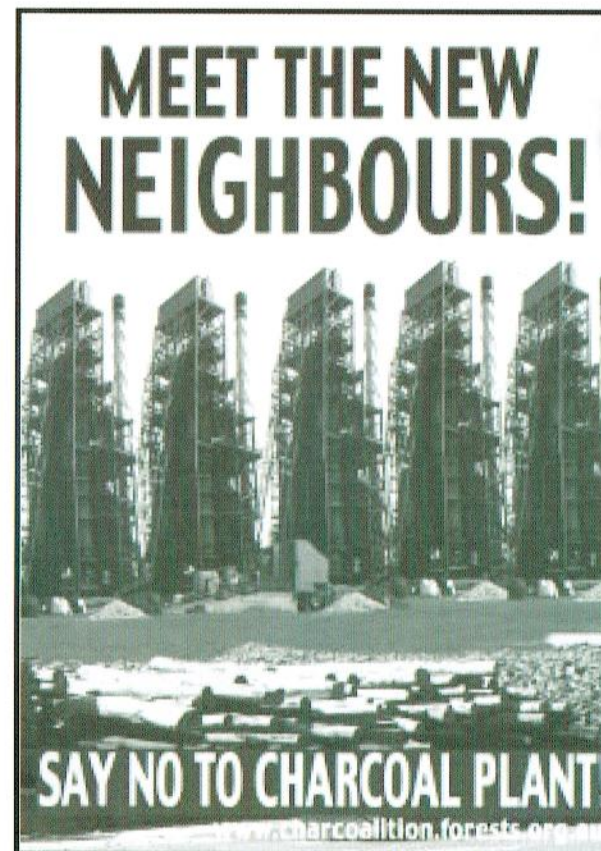
In 17th century England whole forests were torn up to make charcoal for steel production. The forests never recovered. Now, silicon – the 21st century high tech metal – promises to do the same to our forests of South East NSW.

A Western Australian company, Australian Silicon Pty Ltd wants to burn 200,000 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 proposed 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, 31,000 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.

The south coast charcoal factory, apart from producing 35,000 tonnes of charcoal, is likely to also produce

- up to 35,000 tonnes of sawdust
- toxic waste
- huge quantities of greenhouse gas that can contribute to the formation of acid rain. These rains would affect protected coastal wetlands and villages such as Mossy Point, Tomakin and Broulee.



STATE GOVERNMENT AND BIG BUSINESS TREAT LOCAL COMMUNITY WITH CONTEMPT

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 Baybridge protesting against the Charcoal Factory

Despite overwhelming community concern the silicon project is being rushed through the approval process. A poor quality piecemeal Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) report has been released. The massive logging, more than double previous volumes, is not required to have an EIS.

Furnace Future for Our Forests

The NSW Government now plans to grant long term contracts to allow logging at rates many times faster than the forests can grow. 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.



YOU CAN SAVE THE NATURE COAST AND ITS PRECIOUS FORESTS

Please Write, Fax or Email, 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 Clyde Mountain; and
- * your support for the use of alternative silicon smelting technologies such as CSIRO's Ultra Clean Coal and plantation timber.

➡ Premier Bob Carr (fax 02 9228 3935)
C/- Parliament House, Sydney, 2000.

➡ Dr Andrew Refshauge – Minister for Planning
GPO Box 3451 Sydney 1043 (fax 02 9957 2145)

➡ Your Local Member

For More Information Contact Charcoalition
PO Box 521 Batemans Bay NSW 2536
Ph/Fax 02 4474 3335
Email: charcoalition@yahoo.com.au
or mogocharcoal@bigpond.com
Website: www.charcoalition.forests.org.au

Produced by

CHARCOALITION
COMMUNITIES FOR A CHARCOAL-FREE SOUTH COAST

Jan 2002

NATURE COAST OR CHARCOAL COAST ?

IS THIS THE PLACE FOR A CHARCOAL FACTORY ?



CHARCOAL MANUFACTURE LIKELY TO BURN:

- ♦ NATURE-BASED TOURIST ECONOMY
- ♦ CLEAN FORESTED CATCHMENTS