



WA FOREST ALLIANCE

Media Alert - Big crowd expected at Forest Rally

Hundreds of people are expected at a rally calling for the protection of the South West's native forests in Margaret River tomorrow (Saturday the 22nd of August)

Details:

Margaret River Forest Rally

Midday

22nd August 2020

Memorial Park, Margaret River

Speakers at the rally will include Zac Webb (Undalup Association); Jess Beckerling (WA Forest Alliance); Peter Lane; Diane Evers (Greens MLC); Cr. Naomi Godden; writer and local, Ben Elton; Dr. Bill Castleden and Piers Versteegen (Conservation Council).

Local resident and rally organiser, Ray Swarts said,

"We are calling on the State Government to immediately protect what's left of WA's native forests and complete the transition of the timber industry to sustainable plantations. Margaret River people have a close connection with the forests. We have been fighting for their protection for decades and now with the building climate emergency we are mobilising to make our voices heard. We've had enough of seeing our precious forests logged and we want the McGowan Government to protect them for climate, and for life.

It is hard to picture the south west corner of Western Australia without forests – the iconic stands of tall, graceful trees with their leafy crowns swaying in the wind and their muscular trunks lit up orange and pink at dawn and sunset. Our forests are not only beautiful, they are found nowhere else in the world.

And yet...an area the size of 10 football fields of these forests is logged or cleared every day. Already, nearly 90% of our eucalypt forests have been either cleared or logged. Most of the trees taken become charcoal or firewood (Jarrah) or woodchips (Karri). Only 15% of the trees logged are used to provide timber for house construction or furniture.

When an area is "selectively logged", everything around the trees selected for logging or exempted for habitat or seed becomes "collateral damage" – smashed, uprooted, churned into the soil and then burnt.

We KNOW

- that standing forests draw down and store enormous amounts of carbon from the atmosphere.
- that logging, clearing and burning of forests releases enormous amounts of carbon into the atmosphere.

So why are we STILL allowing this to happen when we are already feeling the effects of global warming?

One of the easiest and most effective things we can do to reduce carbon emissions is to stop logging and clearing native forest and to protect all our forests from further degradation. There are other ways to produce paper, charcoal and firewood – there is no better way to cool a planet or sequester carbon.

Healthy, intact native forests provide habitat and food for countless creatures; temperature and humidity control for the planet; they cycle water, stop erosion, give us joy!

Forest are worth so much more standing – after logging they take hundreds of years to regain their intact functioning.

Forest protection is climate action! Our forests need protecting so they can protect us!"

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