



# STOP THE CHOP

## Media Release

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### Death by a Thousand Cuts

The aftermath of the recent East Coast Low has seen yet been another assault on trees.

“This hysterical reaction to the damage caused by trees that fell on property and power lines during the storms is beyond reason,” said Gaye White of Stop the Chop. “Severe storms like that are rare, but to respond by chopping down trees is a serious case of cutting off our nose to spite our face.”

Ms White said that she felt great sympathy for people who had to face days without power and water, some of which was caused by trees falling on power lines. “It is also devastating when a tree falls on a house and we can understand how this experience makes people wary of large trees near homes,” she said. “Unfortunately, most Australians are not taught to look after their trees, to have them checked every few years and made safe if necessary.”

However, Ms White slammed the suggestion that the Government’s 10/50 Clearance Code should be expanded to include trees that might be affected by storms, “While storm events like the recent one are rare, the benefits of trees are with us all the time. Trees provide air conditioning in summer; they shield us from noise and every farmer knows they provide valuable windbreaks around property. All this and they produce oxygen as well. It is no accident that areas with many trees are the most desired residential areas,” she said

Stop the Chop has called for the Government to reject any calls to expand the Code 10/50. “Indeed at the bare minimum there should be a moratorium on any further tree removal until the current review is completed. We urge the Government to recognise the strong community opposition to this Code and to heed the views of experts that wholesale cutting down of trees is no protection from bushfire or severe weather events.”

For more information contact Gaye White [0438 323 331](tel:0438323331)

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**For immediate release**