



STOP THE CHOP

9 February 2015

Who are we

STOP THE CHOP is a community alliance formed to bring the 10/50 Code to a grinding halt. We want immediate withdrawal of the Code and repeal of the enabling legislation as soon as Parliament returns. We are supported by the Nature Conservation Council of NSW, the peak NSW environment group, and many other wildlife, birding and environmental groups in NSW

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The most beautiful trees, the biggest, the most important for our wildlife, our shade, our living amenity in towns and suburbs across the city and the State are still falling because of the bushfire safety legislation, the 10/50 Code.

STOP THE CHOP is a community alliance formed to bring the Code to a grinding halt. We want immediate withdrawal of the Code and repeal of the legislation as soon as Parliament returns.

If you are angry, upset, passionate about 10/50 then this is your opportunity to really do something about it. We need committed active people to join our core organising group and/or volunteers.

For community groups, we urge you to become a supporting group of **STOP THE CHOP** and nominate a liaison person who will roll up their sleeves and get stuck in. Real actions are needed- protest rallies, delegations, polliie 'drop ins', the possibilities are endless if we get together.

We also ask you to pass this newsletter on in full to all your members as a matter of urgency - the state election is only a short time away and this is our best chance to get the Government to drop this bad law. We need many more please contact us **immediately** if you can help

Why we want immediate full withdrawal and repeal:



Despite the latest amendment by the NSW Government the Code remains in place whilst the Rural Fire Service further reviews it.

We are concerned that the code will remain relatively intact after the RFS review and still fundamentally undermine biodiversity and protection of urban amenity (loss of shade, views, presence of birds, possums and other wildlife) as well as increase the heat island effect in large towns and cities, a growing consideration given global warming.

The Code is not science based, and flies in the face of strong evidence that tree canopies can shelter homes from burning embers riding on the wind generated by major bushfires. It is also a known fact that a strong tree canopy in residential areas can significantly mitigate violent windstorms often associated with severe thunderstorms. Scientists predict that



both severe bushfires and violent thunderstorms can be expected to increase in strength and frequency as global warming accelerates.

Many Councils have applied for exemptions from the Code and others have proposed amendments that, like the Government's changes to date, tinker around the edges of the main problem. Despite such amendments, the Code still



usurps an effective system of assessment and control already in place with cooperative arrangements and technical support by the RFS to local Councils. In addition, there is no guarantee that any Councils will receive an exemption and many have not even sought exemption. Continuing the Code also leaves it open to the Minister of the day to arbitrarily vary the Code or revoke previous exemptions and for developers, view seekers and tree haters to perhaps find loopholes even in Council areas supposedly exempt (assuming any are in fact exempted).