



STOP THE CHOP

22 June 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 community groups in metropolitan and regional areas, the Nature Conservation Council of NSW, the peak NSW environment group, and many other wildlife, birding and environmental groups.

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Victorian 10/30 analysis warned 10/50 could generate 'false sense of security'.

An article published by the Sun-Herald on Sunday 24 May has highlighted that the NSW Government and NSWRFs had the evidence they required to predict the consequences of a failed 10/50 Vegetation Clearing Code at their disposal all along.



The bushfire laws were introduced last August and since then thousands of trees have been cleared across the state.

The NSWRFs evaluation of VIC Code 10/30 (2009) stated, ***"This approach may not generate the safety outcomes that the community is hoping for, and in fact may result in some people being more vulnerable"***

This revelation comes at a crucial time in the campaign to modify or repeal the code with the RFS review well and truly underway, with decision makers currently assessing proposed solutions.

The document also identified serious issues with clearing of trees on steep slopes, breaking the relationship between property owners and trained professionals, destruction of riparian zones, damage to aboriginal heritage areas and significant vegetation as well as a number of other concerns.

Why did the NSW Govt ignore this advice?

Gang Gangs sets to suffer significant habitat loss



The vulnerable Gang Gang Cockatoo is set to lose one of its only habitats in the metropolitan Sydney area as a result of a DA which will facilitate large scale clearing of over 85% of this vital habitat under 10/50.

It is estimated that there are only between 18-40 breeding pairs of these birds left in Sydney, and this development will decimate that presence if allowed to continue.

Campaign Update

Community members have been busy taking their messages to our MPs right across the State, with decision makers from Willoughby, Lane Cove, Pittwater, Vaucluse, Davidson, Baulkham Hills, and the North Shore all offering support for our position. Reverend Fred Nile as well as Shadow Environment and Emergency Services Ministers have also offered their support.

Advise from Office of Environment and Heritage condemns Code 10/50

Advice submitted to the NSW Rural Fire Service (NSWRFS) Review by the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) highlights the frightening truth of Code 10/50.

In the wake of the revelation that the NSW RFS were warned about some of the potential dangers of implementing Code 10/50, it has been revealed that NSW's OEH have found that the actual damage caused by the code could exceed those feared.

The analysis was sent to the RFS late last year and provides a scathing assessment of the Code in NSW [as reported in the Sydney Morning Herald](#):

'The department's review found the laws often work at odds with conservation policies and can be invoked by landowners to remove trees even when the risk of bushfire to a property is low.'

According to the Herald:

"There is a perceived impact on threatened species [...] including concerns about localised extinctions,"

Concluding that:

'The state government's controversial bushfire clearing policy may risk driving native species out of some parts of the state and should be scrapped.'

Shadow Environment Minister also commented in the article, and subsequently on ABC Radio on Monday morning, stating:

'The 10/50 law should be suspended while the government reviews its unintended consequences for tree clearing and bushfire safety.'

Community engagement continues to grow and we are taking our message to our MPs