



STOP THE CHOP

Media Release

A group of North Shore voters will deliver an unusual Valentine's Day gift to Willoughby MP and Deputy Premier, Gladys Berejiklian. Members of *Stop the Chop* will present Ms Berejiklian with a Valentine's Day Card along with tree stumps and wood chips from some of the hundreds of trees needlessly felled under the NSW Rural Fire Service's 10/50 Vegetation Clearance Code (10/50 Code).

"Abuse of this supposed bushfire protection measure has been horrendous and heartbreaking," said Ann Proudfoot who has organised the Valentine's Day presentation. "The NSW Government must stop this wholesale destruction of our urban environment."

The 10/50 code was introduced by the NSW Rural Fire Service to help people in bushfire areas protect their homes. The Code permits people to cut down trees without any assessment of the fire risk and with no protection for endangered species. It is being used by residents to improve views, tidy up gardens and clear the way for bigger development on private land. The result is that very few of the trees felled on the North Shore have been a bushfire risk but the area is being denuded of the leafy canopy that cools the atmosphere and makes the area so desirable to live in.

"This Code has been denounced by many organisations, including Nature Conservation Council," said Ms xxxxx. "We join them in calling for an immediate withdrawal of Code 10/50 and a repeal of the enabling legislation so we can return to the RFS assessment model".

"By presenting our local MP with the remains of glorious trees that once graced our streets, we hope to demonstrate the devastating consequences of this Code. By doing it on Valentine's Day we hope to persuade Ms Berejiklian to show that she cares and to urge her Government to act immediately. We call on her to respond in the interests of her constituents and to protect our environment from those who are abusing these measures."

Event: Valentine for Gladys Berejiklian
Where: Electoral Office. 280 Willoughby Rd, Naremburn
When: Friday, 13th February 2015
Time: 9.30am

For more information contact Ann Proudfoot ?????

9 February 2014

For immediate release

Attachment: Valentine's Day Card