

**Submission  
No 90**

## **HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT CONSENTS IN NSW**

**Name:** Miss Poppy Collins

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I write to you to inform you on the necessity that these current laws around out of date DA approvals or 'Zombie DAs' be reformed. Tura beach forest is just one of the 20 natural sights that are under threat of being cleared due to these Development Approvals. This is an ancient, old growth forest, we are talking about. Forests that are vital to the biodiversity and integrity of this environment. The tura beach corridor is one of the last untouched natural corridors in the tura / Merimbula area. Backing on to the coastal lagoon and estuary, it protects the towns waterways by filtering toxins from town center and developments, whilst also reducing erosion by holding up the banks through its strong root systems. Also being home to a range of endangered species that are crucial to the ecosystem, in particular the Merimbula star hair which is endemic to this area with only three separate sightings. This isn't just another piece of land that can be cleared, built upon and forgotten. If this land is cleared it will take far longer than our lifetimes combined and doubled to reach the same level of rich biodiverse, habitat and forest. If this land is cleared the community, I will never forget it and will never forgive the council and state for not reforming the law that allowed it to be done.

The cultural, intrinsic values of this forest reach back a Millenia. The land and it's people will suffer gravely if this forest is just like all the others torn from our Mother Earth. This forest is just one of the 20 up the coast of NSW which all hold their own intrinsic and environmental values that completely out way any utility values that you might see within it.

Most of all the most unexplainable part of these DAs is that they are clearing rich biodiverse forests in order to build houses 'to combat this housing crisis'. Yet it feels as though the state has forgotten that this housing crisis is not here due to too many forests and we all know that. From vacancy rates to Airbnb to second and third ownership and more we can solve this housing solution in a plethora of ways. And if more houses are needed to be built, we could be using already cleared land to do so and also making it actually affordable - unlike the blocks of land proposed to be sold with this clearing in Tura. Building more mansions on land that should be held by the vital forest is not the solution.

We are seeing sacred, environmentally significant land being cleared all over NSW and Australia and it is horrifying and completely unacceptable. We as a community, a council, a state and a country cannot afford to be cutting down more trees for the sake of money. There is one simple answer to this. Change the law. I am not pleading with you, I am telling you. Don't fail us again, don't be saying sorry in 10 years when you can't breathe because there isn't enough oxygen to go round. You don't want to be thinking... 'if only we had changed the Law when we had the chance and protected these forests.' Don't regret. Change it now. And save our forests, save our mother.

Thank you gravely for this opportunity to express my deepest beliefs and our community's needs. I hope you do the right thing for all our sakes.

Poppy