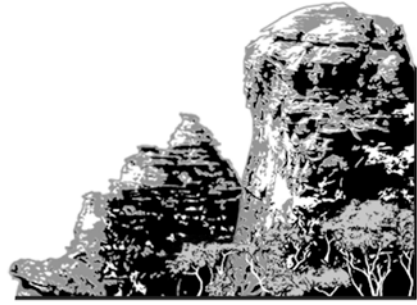




Protect the Gardens of Stone

“Say NO to open cut mining!”



Thursday 12th May 2011

MEDIA ALERT: Environment groups take action to protect Gardens of Stone

When: 1:00pm Saturday 14th May, 2011.

What: Concerned residents and community leaders will gather at the Gardens of Stone for a short media photo opportunity holding a banner (7m x 1.5m) protesting against an open-cut mine in the area. Following this, supporters will explore this pristine area of geological magnificence and rich biodiversity in a short afternoon walk and enjoy a performance by the choir 'Ecopella'.

Why: The Gardens of Stone is under imminent threat due to a consolidation proposal by Coalpac Pty. Ltd. to extend open-cut and highwall mining into a large area of the publicly owned Ben Bullen State Forest, NSW. Environment groups are outraged at this proposal. Many of the highwall scarps will abut strata directly below the 'pagoda' rock formations – their features and stability may be threatened by collapse. If approved, wildlife habitat and natural heritage will be lost forever.

Where: Gardiners Gap Trail, Ben Bullen State Forest, Cullen Bullen, NSW. This is off the Castlereagh Highway, Cullen Bullen, NSW. For a map of the campaign action site go to: <http://bitly.com/hWoEs1>

Who: This is a community initiative by the Blue Mountains Conservation Society, Colong Foundation for Wilderness, Rivers SoS, supported by Lithgow Environment Group, National Parks Association of NSW, Nature Conservation Council of NSW and The Wilderness Society NSW.

Media opportunities:

- Photo/Footage of large group of people, holding a large protest banner with a backdrop of spectacular rock formations and wilderness.
- Photo/footage of the Gardens of Stone and the Ben Bullen State Forest, NSW.
- Interview with community leaders and supporters.

Assistance can be provided in travelling to and accessing the site by contacting Justin McKee.

Media items: A media release on the event will be dispatched Friday 13th May, 2011.

Media Contacts:

Tara Cameron, Vice President of Blue Mountains Conservation Society	M: 0419 824 974
Keith Muir, Director of Colong Foundation for Wilderness	M: 0412 791 404
Caroline Graham, Vice President of Rivers SoS	Ph: (02)4630 9421
Kevin Evans, Executive Officer of National Parks Association of NSW	M: 0457 797 977
Pepe Clarke, CEO of Nature Conservation Council of NSW	M: 0402 325 471
Belinda Fairbrother, Campaigns Manager of The Wilderness Society NSW	M: 0405 082 909

Event Coordinator: Contact **Justin McKee** on 0404 824 020 or go to <http://bitly.com/hmyp3f>

C/- Blue Mountains Conservation Society: ABN 38 686 119 087

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