

Margaret River Regional Environment Centre Inc.
PO Box 1827 Margaret River - WA 6285 Email: mrrenvirocentre@gmail.com

**STOP MARGARET RIVER'S MOWEN FOREST
FROM BEING LOGGED NOW! CROWD FUNDRAISER**

Target: \$90,000 to offer the WA State Government its anticipated net-income to save Mowen Forest from being logged.

“Mowen forest is worth more to the whole community as a carbon store, a tourism destination, a water catchment and a wildlife habitat than for its mostly low-grade products such as woodchips, firewood and charcoal.”

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Where is this forest?

- Mowen Forest is a 7,600 hectare forest approximately 25kms east (inland) of Margaret River along Mowen Road.

How much land is under threat?

- 1,600 hectares – approximately the size of 750 Subiaco Ovals.

Why is it worth protecting?

- Mowen Forest is a state forest in the Shire of Augusta-Margaret River. It is home to many threatened species including red and white tailed black cockatoos, orange-bellied frogs, phascogales, possums and more. Logging would destroy the habitat of these animals driving them further towards extinction.

The forest hasn't got old growth trees so why bother?

- Although part of Mowen Forest is under assessment for 'Old Growth' forest we believe there are other equally as valid reasons to protect our native forests, such as retaining threatened fauna habitat, carbon storage, protecting indigenous heritage sites and other ecosystem services.

What has been happening to protect the forest; what other groups are involved?

- Community members have collected over 1,500 signatures on the petition that was tabled in the WA Legislative Council to save Mowen Forest.
- The Augusta-Margaret River Shire endorsed our Save Mowen Forest petition to WA Legislative Council.
- After receiving the Margaret River community's petition WA Legislative Council have started an inquiry into the logging of Mowen Forest. But this will not pause the logging.
- Groups involved in protecting Mowen Forest include Save Mowen Forest, Margaret River Regional Environment Centre Inc. and the WA Forest Alliance.

What about other forests?

- Hopefully this campaign will raise awareness towards changing community views on the economic (un)viability of logging native forest and concentrate on viable, sustainable plantation timber production.

How will you protect the forest?

- We will ask the government to accept a payment in return for stopping logging in Mowen forest in 2014 and in the future.

What does buy back mean?

- In this case we will be making a financial offer to the WA State Government to protect Mowen Forest from logging in 2014 and in the future. We will offer the money to WA State Government to replace the relatively negligible net-income they would have made by logging Mowen Forest.

Who will you give the money to?

- We will offer the money to WA State Government to replace the relatively negligible net-income they would have made by logging Mowen Forest.

Will this work?

- If the government does accept our offer it will have worked to save Mowen Forest.
- If the government does not accept our offer our campaign will have gained a significant amount more of media exposure, helping to ensure the longer term safety of the forest. Monies will then be used to support South West forest campaigning.

What will happen if this can't be achieved?

How do I know my money is in safe hands, and where will it be going?

You have three options for donating funds through Margaret River Regional Environment Centre Inc.:

- 1. Donate through the Australian crowd-funding provider Chuffed**, a reputable not-for-profit organisation which enhances the ability of groups like ours to raise money for worthwhile causes. Your donation will go specifically towards raising the \$90,000 we need to buy back the Mowen Forest from the Government. When you donate through this website, you will pay Chuffed a small fee of 2% of the donation plus 30c handling fee. If this Campaign is unsuccessful, your donation will be directed to campaigning for the preservation of South West Western Australian native forests.
- 2. Cash or bank deposit donations** will go towards raising the \$90,000 we need to buy back the Mowen Forest from the Government. If we are unsuccessful, donations will be used to continue supporting the campaign for Mowen. If the campaign is successful, additional funds will support other local forests in a similar crisis. If we do not raise \$90,000 by 31st January 2015, donations over \$100 can be refunded if requested.

Account name: Margaret River Regional Environment Centre Inc.

Bank: Westpac BSB 036 127 Acc. No. 152 436

Please reference the transaction with your name and "Mowen."

If you make a donation over \$100 and you would like a refund if this campaign is unsuccessful please email us at mrrenvirocentre@gmail.com

- 3. Make a pledge of over \$1,000:** Complete the Pledge form, available on MREC web site <http://mrrec.org.au/buymowen/> and follow the instructions. You can make your pledge in person by contacting mobile: 0459 061 789. This pledge is only redeemable if the money is accepted by Government for this purpose within the campaign timeframe. Should the fundraiser not meet its objective to raise \$90,000 by 31st January 2015, the pledge will lapse.
Pledge: *"To purchase from the Western Australian Government the right of the Mowen Forest, which is located in the South West of Western Australia, to remain as a natural forest and free from future logging in perpetuity."*