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MEDIA RELEASE

All we want for Christmas is Old Growth Forest protection – suits tell Premier Brumby

A group of concerned Melbourne business and office workers will spend their Tuesday lunch hour on Parliament House steps calling from their mobile phones for Premier Brumby to remove bulldozers and chainsaws from Brown Mountain, one of Victoria's most spectacular old growth forests.

Premier Brumby has approved the destruction of one of Brown Mountain's old growth forests despite the promises of Victoria's former Premier, Steve Bracks, to protect them.

"Premier Brumby is out of touch with the majority of Victorians", says Peter Campbell, an IT consultant, who has helped map a wilderness walking track at Brown Mountain. "This logging sacrifices future tourism employment in our forests. It flies in the face of good government policy. It does not make good economic sense, regardless of the horrendous ecological damage it is doing."

"If we care about future generations, we must act to protect our old growth forests", said Tracey Callander, a concerned parent, actor and community worker. "Whilst Premier Brumby talks tough on climate change, behind the scenes he is cutting down some of the most carbon rich forests on Earth."

"Premier Brumby is acting like a bull in a china shop", said Vince De Simone, a lecturer and health professional. "Not only is protecting forests important for climate change, these forests are our water factories. Brown Mountain is much more valuable as an intact forest than a woodchip wasteland."

"We will gather here today on the steps of Parliament, and be on our mobile phones to tell Premier Brumby that old growth forest protection is not negotiable. This is simply not good enough," Mr Campbell said.

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