

Thursday 30th June, 2011

Woollamia man fined \$11,000 for illegal foreshore vegetation removal

Shoalhaven City Council has been successful in taking court action against a Woollamia man charged with illegally removing and lopping foreshore vegetation from a Council reserve adjacent to Currembene Creek.

At Nowra Local Court on Friday 13 May 2011 Tom Woolley was convicted and fined \$11,000 for cutting down trees to improve the view of Currembene Creek for his mother's residence.

The court heard that in June 2010 Mr Woolley cut down 4 trees and lopped several others located on the foreshore reserve. The area in which the trees were removed is protected by the objectives to protect aquatic habitats and riparian communities under Councils Local Environment Plan. The removal of trees in this zone required Council consent.

Council's Acting Ranger Services Manager Tony Pearman said Council Rangers are consistently taking action against people who illegally remove or vandalise vegetation upon foreshore reserves. The penalty imposed in this instance should serve as deterrent to all citizens who are thinking about clearing trees or flora on reserve areas to improve their views.

"If you are a witness to any persons interfering with, damaging or destroying flora or fauna in any situation please contact Rangers on 4429 3433." "People found to have been carrying out such destruction of vegetation can expect a similar outcome in the courts," Mr Pearman said.

Council is continuing to review and improve strategies in combating this illegal activity to help protect these environmentally sensitive areas for the future.

For further information please contact Council's Acting Ranger Services Manager Tony Pearman on (02) 4429 3612.