

Killalea Green Ban

Unions threaten Government on resort

THE first sod may never be turned at Killalea's proposed tourist resort after unions yesterday threatened what amounts to a green ban on the development.

The South Coast Labour Council held a special executive meeting yesterday, at which a motion was passed threatening action against the Government if it did not listen to Union concerns.

Labour council secretary Arthur Rorris said he had received correspondence from three unions calling for the executive meeting to be held to discuss the Killalea State Park development. It was rare to be hit with three such letters, Mr Rorris said.

The NSW Fire Brigade Employees Union, Australian Workers Union and the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union wrote expressing outrage that the NSW Government had signed an agreement to lease three parcels of land to developers Mariner Financial to build a tourism resort.

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A motion was passed yesterday to reaffirm the labour council's opposition to privatisation and development of parks, to express its concern at the apparent secrecy and lack of public consultation regarding the granting of leases at Killalea and to hold a community meeting at Shellharbour Links Golf Club on Tuesday night to form a plan of action. Most importantly, the labour council said if the response was not satisfactory it would reconvene the executive as the disputes committee.

"We're basically saying we will keep our options open to consider any form of action that will fit," Mr Rorris said.

"One form of action suggested is a community green ban which may see residents in front of bulldozers. "We are going to do everything in our power to stop it."

Assistant secretary of the CFMEU NSW branch, Peter Zaboyak, said he was angered by the "arrogant" approach taken to community consultation on the development.

"They've left unions, residents and interest groups in the dark, now they have absolutely no choice but to come clean and say what's behind it, where the money is going and why there was no consultation," Mr Zaboyak said.

NSW Fire Brigade Employees union representative Mark Paloff said the plan to build 200 strata units at the surf beach was "outrageous".

A spokesman for the Minister for Lands Tony Kelly urged the community to reserve its judgment until Mariner submitted its development application.