

CONSERVATIONISTS DO NOT SUPPORT EDEN CHIPMILL WOOD FIRED POWER STATION

Eden chipmill managers are wrong to claim that leading conservation groups support its proposed wood fired power station.

Public Affairs Manager, Mr Vince Phillips told ABC Regional radio this morning that the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) supports South East Fibre Exports' proposed forest furnace.

Regional forest campaigner, Ms Harriett Swift who is the convener of the Chipstop Campaign, says that the WWF leaflet cited by Mr Phillips does not support the SEFE proposal.

"The WWF has put strict conditions on its support for biomass burning that SEFE could not possibly meet," Ms Swift said.

- It requires that "good forestry practices" must be adopted.
- "There should be no conversion of natural forests or high conservation value habitats involved in raw material production or supply."
- It also requires that "growing practices must protect and enhance soil fertility."
- "Water use should be assessed throughout the production and conversion chain, with particular emphasis on avoiding damage to watersheds."

Mr Phillips is trying to put a green gloss on a project that requires the ongoing woodchipping of a million native forest trees every year.

Without that massive industrial scale forest destruction there would be no "waste wood" and no need for almost half of the electricity to be generated.