

SCORECARD: 50 YEARS OF WOODCHIPPING ON THE NSW SOUTH COAST

28 NOVEMBER 2019

1. Over 42 million tonnes of woodchips exported. None for domestic use.
2. More than 31 million trees cut down and chipped.
3. Hundreds of millions of tonnes of CO² have been released into the atmosphere.

ECONOMY

1. Woodchipping was founded on the myth it would use "waste wood". Often logging operations now yield 100% pulp. History.
2. The price for pulp log now received by the State-owned Forestry Corp. is at a record low of \$3.72 a tonne for the Southern Region of NSW.
3. Native forest logging is increasingly marginal for Forestry Corp. Lately it has often made a loss, despite heavy subsidies.
4. The pulp industry is one of the most capital-intensive in the country. More than \$5M of investment is needed to support every job. Imagine what most small business operators could do with \$5M? Industry jobs have dropped from 450 in 1980 to less than half of that today.
5. Exemption from Bega Valley Shire rates for production forests has saved Forestry Corp. well over \$300 million.

WILDLIFE

1. Koalas reduced from several hundred to about 60.
2. Countless wild creatures have suffered and died and even once abundant species like Greater Gliders, Sugar Gliders and White-throated nightjar populations are reduced.

THE FUTURE

1. Jobs at the Eden chipmill have dropped from almost 100, to just over 30.
2. Sawmilling has an uncertain future with Blueridge Hardwoods of Eden facing closure and the Batemans Bay mill closing in 2012. Companies owning the Eden chipmill are likely to become monopoly buyers of every tree felled in the Eden Region. This could result in even more sawlogs ending up at the chipper than we have already seen.
3. In the Eurobodalla and Bega Valley Shires combined, the industry employs less than 1% of the workforce.