

**Letter to the Prime Minister re Wood fired power stations represent a huge threat to Australian, Lauren Caulfield 06.10**

Dear Mr Rudd,

I am shocked to learn that the Australian Government's MRET legislation includes polluting and environmentally damaging "wood waste" from native forests as an eligible fuel source alongside real renewables like wind and solar.

Forestry companies and State agencies are promoting large scale wood fired power stations that would see millions of tonnes of precious native forest burnt to generate relatively small amounts of energy.

The NSW government plans to burn forest wood in the Eden chip mill's proposed woodfired electricity station. In an era of climate change it is absurd for the Australian Government to be subsidizing the burning of native forests, our most valuable carbon stores.

Wood fired power stations represent a huge threat to Australian communities and the Environment because:

- They release vast emissions of carbon and greenhouse gases, unlike true renewables. Burning wood releases huge CO2 emissions, which are not re-captured by growing forests for decades or even centuries. Burning wood produces more greenhouse emissions per unit of electricity than burning coal.
- They generate dangerous air pollution, including particulates that threaten the health of local communities. In the United States, reputable medical societies including the American Lung Association have called for a halt to new wood fired power developments because of their impact on public health.
- They threaten our native forests and biodiversity. By opening up a vast new market for low-grade timber, wood fired power stations would entrench the destruction of Australia's precious native forests. Burning so called "wood waste" would also impose severe impacts on invertebrate biodiversity and forest health.
- They compete with the real renewable energy industries that Australia needs to chart a low-carbon future, such as wind, solar and geothermal.

Please Mr. Rudd, immediately act to close this loophole by removing native forest "wood waste" from the list of renewable energy sources under MRET and protecting Australia's native forests.

Yours Sincerely