

LETTER TO ROB OAKESHOOT (MP) RE WOOD-POWERED ENERGY HARRIETT  
SWIFT 15.02.2012

Dear Mr Oakeshott

Thank you for your reply to my letter. Unfortunately, your arguments do not apply to the woodchipping industry of south eastern NSW.

The woodchipping industry was founded upon the myth that it would use "waste." In the Eden Region now, 95% of the wood removed from State Forests is officially "waste" and ends up at the Eden woodchip mill, now owned by Japan's biggest paper manufacturer, the Nippon Paper Group. Eden is the only region where trees are felled solely for woodchipping and where a living, growing tree, standing in the forest can be classified as "waste."

The high value test will have little if any impact, especially since the NSW State Government responded to the Auditor General's findings on native forest logging losses which have actually now gone up to \$15 million a year by increasing royalties of sawlogs only, but NOT increasing the price of pulp logs destined for woodchipping.

The high value of the \$A is making the woodchipping industry less economic, but perversely, it will make it easier (cheaper imported capital equipment) to establish forest furnaces to burn native forest wood.

Subsidising the burning native forest wood for electricity with RECs competes with genuine renewables and provides a broader economic base to the woodchipping industry, which will help its continued existence.

Please reconsider. This vote could change the face of Australia's forests which are under far too many threats already.

Yours sincerely  
Harriett Swift