

Comments

what about worsening climate change due to tree logging in eden.

if people are moving to sydney canberra melbourne then good on them.. by that at least we are saving trees, natural habitat and doing our bid to stop deadly climate change..

August 27, 2013, 11:24AM

Diversifying regional economies is essential to growing rural towns. In regions like the Yarra Ranges in Victoria the same changes are underfoot in rethinking forest recovery to ensure that the myriad of other rural businesses can flourish - not just that of the woodchippers.

The woodchip industry is dying but not because of green voters or conservationists but because of new international woodchip trade out of Chile, China, Vietnam, Brazil and Siberia. These countries are flooding the market with cheaper chips and along with the high Australian dollar and low environmental credentials of Australian government logging agencies, Australia's chips are unappetising. The buyers Mr Mitchell has relied on historically obviously agree.

The future for towns like Eden will be in growing tourism and capitalising on forests for their unique splendour. What is left of the forests, after a long run of the extractive industries, should now become the cornerstone of greater employment opportunities.

We used to run whaling out of Eden too but compared to the value of a pound of dead whale meat it made more economic sense to watch them living. It was a Liberal government that orchestrated that business shift.

August 27, 2013, 8:53AM

Selective logging should be allowed and wood chipping reserved to plantation forests. Sorry to say but Tourism is not the answer for a lot of rural communities either and unfortunately I don't know the answer.

August 27, 2013, 11:16AM

Is it coincidence that the words of Mr Mitchell are the words of the NSW liberal government? I had hoped those dark McDonald days were over. It may be useful to provide some context to this story:

-The Tourism industry on the south coast employs 58 463 people, the native forest woodchipping groups 200.

-The state run logging agency, Forestry Corporation, loses \$14-\$16M a year in the native forest sector.

-Bega Valley Shire Council approved the pellet mill- green groups opposed the proposal.

-BVSC disallowed the wind farm- green groups supported the proposal.

Native forest is not renewable nor is it 'waste'. The only waste is the \$14-16 Million dollar loss every year that FCNSW incur- and this will not be alleviated by allowing trees to be logged for burning. It will allow a multinational corporation which is wholly Japanese owned to continue its activities.

Burning native forest for power can release more carbon dioxide into the atmosphere than coal or gas.

Replacing one polluting fuel with another, when there are genuine renewable options like solar and wind, is illogical. Further NSW must abide by Federal and international obligations under the Kyoto Protocol.

There is a small logging town in the far south of New Zealand which was extremely worried when NZ legislated to end native forest logging in 2002. However they had a huge international draw card- whales. They worked hard and turned the mill into a resort with cabins. Now if you want to visit it is a three year waiting list. It is time to follow New Zealand's example and end native forest logging

August 27, 2013, 8:56AM

Smoke belching, tree eating Goliath machinery is not progress. It's criminal vandalism.

August 27, 2013, 9:17AM

Strip-mining the forest then burning it is Easter Island technology with extinction as the precursor.

The list of native forest compartments that Mr Peter Mitchell and his woodchip company SEFE have vandalised over the years is enormous - this accumulated carnage of habitat lost and water catchment degradation is the legacy of SEFE. How long can you sustain the lie?

August 27, 2013, 9:32AM

So decisions made at a Council and State level are presented as Federal issues reasons to decide who to vote for at a Federal level?? What sort of low-quality journalism is this??

August 27, 2013, 11:35AM

The comments that you have printed from the pro environment movement are some of the most arrogant and offensive I have ever read.

The median household income of \$800 per week is less than the minimum wage and yet these people want the employment of this community destroyed to support their pipedream. Eco tourism is a myth, and cannot sustain any long term business, without the right attractions. Look at Yeppoon, struggling financially, or the environmentalists biggie Tasmania where tourism is struggling. The south coast of Eden-Monaro has to play to its strengths and that is resource extraction, but successive governments pandering to inner urban watermelons destroyed both the cottage fishing and logging industries.

If the environment movement are so confident of their myth, let them stump up the hundreds of millions of dollars of capital needed., to create the industry they claim to be there. They should have to compensate existing businesses when, not if, there plan fails due to lack of a cost benefit analysis or proper plan. Until the eco tourism supporters make these ventures pay, and contribute to the Australian economy, they have no credibility

August 27, 2013, 11:35AM

In response to the sensitive Michael M. It is the attitude of yours which is holding Australia back. The industry of logging has come to its end. And the damage it has done is going to cost a lot to repair for the new industry of eco tourism to take its place. The beginning and start up costs of any new industry always demands hefty financial input. In regards to 'Eco tourism cannot sustain any long term business without the right attraction', is a myth in itself. Look at Ballarat's 'Sovereign Hill' as an example. A town with not a lot of tourism pull. But the revenue and employment 'S. H.' Generates is fantastic. It's up to the people of Eden to have a bit of nouse, pull their skills together and come up with a tourism idea. Stop your old fashioned bickering and start working towards an industry that is sustaining for the life times to come. It's time to accept that the resource industry has had it's time, and that it needs to pull in its emissions. Oh but that's getting onto the topic of climate change.... Another attitude which may be holding you back :-)

August 27, 2013, 2:45PM

Read more: <http://www.canberratimes.com.au/act-news/mill-that-could-have-been-greener-on-other-side-of-politics-20130826-2smdn.html#ixzz2dFbVGCmy>