

## **Eden wood-fired power station would be koala and climate killer**

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A proposal by the operator of the woodchip mill in Eden to build a 5 MW wood-fired power station is neither green nor sustainable and should be rejected by the NSW government, according to Greens NSW MP John Kaye. ('Eden feels the heat over wood-fired power plant', SMH 26 April 2010, p. 5, <http://bit.ly/smh100426>)

Dr Kaye said: "The chipmill operator's greenhouse gas assessment of the proposed plant completely ignores emissions from the forestry operations that would supply it with fuel.

"Hiding behind the argument that the power station would only burn waste materials, SEFE is avoiding all responsibility for the hundreds of thousands of tonnes of carbon dioxide released while harvesting the fuel...

"SEFE is declaring 'green' a power station that would not only contribute to the devastation of the native forests but also contributes to global warming.

"The native forests of South East Australia store massive amounts of carbon. Our estimate is that a forest furnace power station would have a far greater carbon footprint than an equivalent sized coal-fired power station.

"Our analysis indicates that the power station would emit more than six times the amount of greenhouse gases as a coal fired power station generating the same amount of energy.

"Even after allowing for the forests to regrow to capture some of this CO<sub>2</sub>, the power station has a carbon footprint that is four times the size of a coal-powered generator.

"When the entire fuel cycle is considered, this is a carbon-dirty proposal. The applicant has neatly sidestepped the real greenhouse implications of burning forestry materials. Planning Minister Tony Kelly should demand a more rigorous analysis.

"SEFE is pretending that they will only be using waste products that would otherwise be burned or used as garden mulch. This power station will almost certainly end up burning woodchips next time there is a downturn in the international price.

"This is an industry that pretends it is manufacturing 1 million tonnes of woodchips a year from the waste materials of a forestry operation that produces only 100,000 tonnes of primary product.

"The forestry industry's distorted view of 'waste' will become the excuse for burning woodchips next time there is a downturn in the international price," Dr Kaye said.