



South East Region Conservation Alliance (SERCA)

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One Million Dollars a Day to Woodchip South East Forests

Conservationists today called for the immediate shut down of native forest logging in the South East Forests unless Forests NSW pays \$1million a day for the carbon pollution caused by the woodchip industry.

“Under the Federal Governments’ new Climate Action Plan a carbon price of \$23.00 per tonne of carbon from woodchipping South East NSW and East Gippsland forests is worth over \$1 million dollars a day **(1)**,” says Harriett Swift for the South East Regional Conservation Alliance (SERCA).

SERCA members welcomed the apparent inclusion of native forests under the Carbon Farming initiative and the Biodiversity Fund as providing incentives for moving the logging industry out of native forests and into plantations.

“Protecting native forests from industrial logging and woodchipping is the most cost effective way to cut carbon pollution. Australia could easily triple its 5% emissions reduction target just by keeping our forests as critical carbon stores; it is the single most important and effective step for Australia to take and one that brings immediate benefit,” said Noel Plumb for SERCA.

“Native forest logging is not economically or environmentally sustainable and is creating bitter social division,” said Prue Acton for SERCA.

“SERCA congratulates the Climate Change Committee, with representatives from the Government and the Greens as well as independents Tony Windsor and Rob Oakeshot, for finally closing the door on the environmentally irresponsible proposal to burn forests as “renewable” electricity under the Renewable Energy Target (RET) legislation.”

“This closure is way overdue but it gives us hope that the tide is turning on protecting native forests despite the best efforts of the forestry industry and Tony Abbott’s Coalition to champion this dumb and dubious proposal. Even today, the local south coast Liberal MP Andrew Constance is still trying to defend the indefensible,” said Noel Plumb

“Already, the woodchip cards are falling with the closure of the loophole. Within 24 hours the Tasmanian Government has walked away from propping up the failed Gunn’s woodchip mill at Triabunna,” said Prue Acton.

“In a sign of things to come it has been snapped up by forward thinking business people, environmentally responsible business people who will use the site to develop tourism in Tasmania instead of forest destruction, atmospheric pollution and pumping toxic chemicals into the rivers and the ocean.”

“The Eden chip mill is perfectly sited on spectacular Twofold Bay to provide the growing Wilderness Coast tourism industry with a fantastic opportunity. Perhaps it could also include a small museum onsite to mark the passing of woodchipping, just as surely as whaling has gone?”

‘Right now, there must be an immediate stop to logging in Bermagui’s State forests. These forests are critical corridors for NSW’s endangered coastal koala population.’

“Despite huge local protest, Forests NSW is continuing to destroy these forests which are also a well-known tourist landmark, the Cathedral of Trees, gateway to the Australian Wilderness Coast.”

“Inclusion of forests under the Carbon Farming Initiative (CFI) in the new plan means genuine carbon accounting will be required. No longer should native forests be counted as carbon neutral when woodchipping them is producing at least 7-9% of Australia’s green house gases (GHG)”

“The Biodiversity Fund set up by the Government as part of its new plan could and should provide immediate funding for the native forest sector to exit woodchipping and industrial logging which is drying out the forests, making them ever more fire prone, whilst also destroying essential habitat for our threatened wildlife.”

“ Australia has a glut of plantations which can replace virtually all our timber and wood fibre needs, almost overnight,” said Noel Plumb

For further comment: -

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(1) For carbon cost calculation: -

<http://chipstop.savetheforests.org.au/carbon%20calculation%202011.pdf>