

19 August 2013

### **Submission by Richard D Parker**

I write regarding the Draft Protection of the Environment Operations (General) Amendment (Native Forest Bio-material) Regulation 2013.

I am appalled that a democratically elected government could consider such a short-sighted and destructive practice as using natural native forests for electricity generation. The scientific and commercial communities have been making headway with solar, wind and wave produced electricity and to allow a reversion to burning wood as a power source seems to me like a return to the worst aspects of the Industrial Revolution in 18<sup>th</sup> Century Europe.

To me, the notion that the forestry workers would go around logging sites, collecting off-cut branches, twigs and leafy residue is farcical, and an insult to a person's intelligence.

The carbon dioxide released by the burning of such a huge quantity of wood is estimated to add 20% to Australia's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, and the reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> absorbed by trees in their wonderful natural cycle of taking in CO<sub>2</sub> and emitting oxygen, is probably immeasurably large, dependant on the number of trees which this proposed Amendment would allow to be cut down.

Yesterday, I saw whales, perhaps 200 metres off a beach here on the Far South Coast where I live. Since whaling was stopped, these creatures have become far more valuable in their natural state than ever were their components, when chopped up for human consumption. Forests, likewise, will become increasingly more valuable as carbon stores, and the natural native forests as tourist attractions, if left in their beautiful natural state.

Please leave the current legislation as it stands.

Richard D Parker