

## **LETTER TO: BEGA VALLEY SHIRE COUNCILLORS WHO APPROVED PELLET PLANT PROPOSAL**

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Subject: Our Native Forests

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Dear Councillors Who Voted for the Pellet Plant Proposal,

I'm sure you all thought, in one way or another, that you were doing the right thing. I just hope you considered the various aspects of the proposal, including the very plausible future repercussions. To the public, it seems from the lack of debate and public consultation, that your minds were made up from the start, perhaps with the mantra of jobs and money to the area.

I guess time will tell whether you and other proponents of cutting down live, healthy trees in our native forests are right or wrong. I feel it is worth considering the intrinsic worth of our native forests. The animals, such as the iconic koala, have a right to live, as they have for eons before we came here. Besides their right, they are one of our most important tourist attractions.

An overwhelming majority of scientists agree that old growth forests are one of the most effective weapons against climate change. Australian forests, with their old gum trees, seem to be the most effective of all.

The beauty of the forests themselves is also of value. Again, beauty, besides being good for its own sake, is vital to our tourism future.

Forests NSW and the contractors working for the Eden chip mill and others have been caught many, many times recently with serious breaches of the way they are supposed to log. From this immediate and ongoing history, it should give us pause to wonder if they are the best stewards of something so important.

Whatever any of our reasons are for doing anything, it is the results of our actions that are important. It is possible that the pellet plant will not get off the ground, or that it will move to using plantations, or that all this logging is actually good for our native forests. It is also possible that this industry will take off the way woodchipping took off, and be an ongoing reason to log native forests, and that future generations will wish that there were still koalas in the wild, forests to walk through, and old growth trees to absorb our carbon.

Sincerely yours, Dan Katz 16 Edna Drive Tathra, NSW 2550 6494-5887