

## **Letter to Editor: Burning our forests for electricity Prue Acton 06.10**

### **Burning forests for electricity won't save us from climate change.**

International scientists now say that woodfired electricity produces more emissions than coal when the full carbon cycle is counted. Around 10% of Australia's green house gases come from logging native forests; under Kyoto Protocols these emissions are not counted.

Unions such as CFMEU, and industry bodies such as NAFI and TCA have pushed to include native forest wood-fired electricity in the Renewable Energy Targets legislation currently before the Senate.

Polls show that majority of Australians want forest logging stopped.

And people are horrified to hear our governments plan to burn them for electricity, whilst competing unfairly against true renewables such as: solar, wind, wave and geo-thermal.

Classifying forest so called "waste" eligible for Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) gives this dying forestry sector a second market, as industry moves to plantations and recycling.

The majority of Australia's native forests logging is for woodchips; only 5% of trees are used for sawn timber; the rest are classified as "waste" and sold under cost for woodchips which are exported, mainly for cheap copy paper and recently, as fuel for power generation.

Australia's carbon dense forests should not be woodchipped or burnt for power; instead they should be valued as essential to: sequester carbon, for rain, water supplies and for the beauty and resilience that biodiversity brings.

Prue Acton O.B.E. Dr. of Arts honoris causa RMIT University  
"Many Swans" 1478 Sapphire Coast Drive  
Wallagoot nsw 2550  
ph./fax 0264945144  
m. 0419393203 (limited coverage)  
prue.acton@bigpond.com  
serca.org.au