

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR:** The "waste" Lie Colin Sagar

10<sup>th</sup> August 2010

When talking Climate Change in Eden Monaro the most contentious issue is forest management and the "waste" word. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change recognised the need for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation.

In his Green Carbon Report, ANU's Brendon Mackey says: "Native forests are a significant standing stock of carbon that should be protected". The vast majority of the trunks of thousands of trees felled every day in this electorate are chipped for paper, are easily substituted by other fibres and are now sort to be burned for electricity. These trees are euphemistically termed 'waste'! That's 90% of logs taken from our forests going to the chipper, never ever a head or a butt.

For forty years our environment and community have been betrayed by this "waste" lie. Is the industry concerned about this scandalous definition of waste? ... No way! Are the public concerned about the possibility of now feeding our forests, again defined as 'waste', to a dirty climate change exacerbating, Eden power furnace? ... You bet ya! And the politicians ... are they concerned at this definition of 'waste'? ... Will Gazard and Kelly categorically rule out the use of our standing native forest trees for electricity production? We voters are all ears!

Yours Colin Sagar