

FNSW excludes greenies from forest tour June 2009

Ian Barnes, Regional Manager Forests NSW has organized a forest propaganda tour on 10 June. South East Region Conservation Alliance Inc. received no response when asked if a representative could attend and distribute an information sheet and questions to participants.

SERCA intends to hold its own Forest Tour late July inviting Mayor Tony Allen and other important people to hear alternative directions to the current loss making woodchipping and proposed forest furnaces for the native forests of NSW.

The latest research from the Australian National University shows the carbon emissions from logging native forests in New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania, could be more than ten times (1000%) above government estimates.

"The industry is into studied ignorance. Its claim that it is a 'carbon-positive' process which increased carbon uptake would fail a primary school test on climate change," Senator Brown recently told the Senate.

Prue Acton Spokesperson for SERCA said, 'We have serious questions to ask Forests NSW which include:

1. The Auditor General's report released last month states that FNSW made a loss on its native forest operations in 2007 of \$14.4 million (this figure was actually supplied by FNSW to the Auditor). What proportion of this was lost on woodchipping operations?
2. Why is Forests NSW unwilling to release details of royalty prices for logs when it is a monopoly seller and – in the case of chip logs – selling to a monopoly buyer? What is the relevance of "commercial-in-confidence" provisions in these circumstances?
3. Why have conservationists had to take FNSW to court to find out the price it puts on this publicly owned resource?
4. Is it true that in real terms, woodchip (ie; pulpllog) royalties now are less than half what they were 15 years ago?
5. What is the rotation time for logging (ie; how many years between logging cycles) now? And what was it 40 years ago when woodchipping first started?
6. Forests NSW does wildlife surveys before logging is carried out.
7. How many staff hours of pre logging survey work are done before a typical compartment is logged?
8. Does FNSW ever do surveys after logging to find out whether wildlife prescriptions actually work?
9. How does FNSW see the future of the native forest industry? Do they expect biomass burning to generate energy to have an increasing role?

For more information call:

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