

## Bay protest goes up in wood smoke

BY SAM GROVES

20/05/2009 12:49:00 PM

A makeshift smoke stack on the Forests NSW site in Batemans Bay yesterday caught the attention of locals and police, who were called to investigate.

For more local news and photos grab a copy of the Bay Post or Moruya Examiner.



The artwork was a protest to draw attention to South East Fibre Exports' (SEFE) proposal to build a five mega-watt power station near Eden.

The artwork was called 'the Art of Hazard Reduction' and Moruya artists and creators Lisa Stone and Tony Whan said it was to recognise a "hazard in the making".

The smoke stack was installed by 7.30am and removed by 9.30am. The words "loggings = emissions" were also on fire in front of the stack.

"We don't know if we'll get fined or not," Ms Stone said.

"It's ironic that Forests NSW put in a complaint, when all around us, every burning season, whole towns are covered in a pall of smoke."

Ms Stone claimed the proposal put forward by SEFE did not involve any public consultation and information submitted in the proposal was incorrect.

“Not many people know what’s about to happen,” she said. “The other interesting thing that SEFE said to the Government was that they were 35km away from (Eden).

“That’s true if you drive, but it’s only 3km away by boat, or as the wind blows.

“With enough community support we can stop it. We stopped the charcoal factory.”

SEFE corporate affairs manager Vince Phillips said the business could not ease the concerns of the protesters, but the public would be informed during an environmental assessment of the proposal.

“I don’t think you can ease the concerns of these people,” he said.

“They announced that we would build 16 power stations and we’ve only got an application for one.”

The potential power station would use wood waste products and sawdust to produce electricity.

Mr Phillips said he didn’t believe there would be any dangerous emissions produced if the project went ahead and similar power stations had been built overseas and in domestic communities.

“Bega has a wood-fired boiler plant in the middle of Bega, and I’m sure there are plenty more in other areas,” Mr Phillips said.

