

MEDIA RELEASE: South East Region Conservation Alliance & ChipBusters

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Liberal and Labor Will Both Burn Forests For Electricity If Elected - Conservation Groups Warn of Voter Anger

Conservation groups today warned two of the major parties, Liberal and Labor, that they will risk a voter backlash, particularly in the Senate, if they persist with their plans to allow our forests to be burnt for electricity.

"Both parties have refused to close the loopholes in the Renewable Energy Target legislation that is encouraging the woodchip industry to propose new woodchip fired power stations around the country," said Noel Plumb and Prue Acton, spokespersons for ChipBusters and the South East Region Conservation Alliance

"These foul furnaces will allow the industry to rescue themselves from falling export markets for native forest woodchips and lock in destruction of our forests for another 40 years. "

"And they have been classified by Liberal and Labor as sustainable energy producers, allowing them to put "dead koala" power into our homes, shops and factories as clean, green energy. This sham will compete unfairly with genuine renewable energy such as solar, wind and wave power."

"We are part of a national initiative to ensure that public attention will be drawn to this situation, including confronting candidates from Liberal and Labor in marginal seats, letterboxing and print and TV advertising."

"We will also be encouraging conservation minded voters to get out there on the polling booths and tell other voters what is really going on."

"80% of all Australians, including 70% in rural and regional areas, want an end to all native forest logging after seeing the destruction already wrought by the woodchippers over the last forty years."

"They will be even angrier and more disillusioned when they realize what the Liberal and Labor Parties are up to with their woodchip mates and the National Association of Forest Industries."

"Women voters in particular will be up in arms, polling shows they are even more likely to reject these proposals by Liberal and Labor, and the Parties themselves."

"Already in NSW, the first woodchip fired power station feeding into the national grid is possibly only weeks away from approval by the NSW Labor Government. It is at Eden, the original home of woodchipping in Australia."

For further comment and picture/TV opportunities:

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