

**Submission
No 121**

SUSTAINABILITY OF ENERGY SUPPLY AND RESOURCES IN NSW

Name: Ms Jane Dargaville

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I am a resident of Taree on the NSW mid-north coast, and I am writing this submission to express to the committee my deep dismay and concern, indeed alarm, about the emergence and potential expansion of the practice in NSW of burning native timbers for the production of electricity.

It is my sincere and heartfelt wish that the committee thoroughly investigate this highly destructive and damaging enterprise and make recommendations to ensure that it is brought to a halt.

I understand that, at present, most of the timber fodder for the burning comes from sawmill offcuts and plantation timbers, but I, and many other residents of the NSW mid-north coast who deeply cherish our wondrous and lush natural environment, fear that when this source runs out, as it inevitably will, and the practice becomes entrenched, operators of the timber fired power stations will seek to source wood from our precious State forests, which are already under severe and escalating threat from intense over-logging.

I find it extraordinary and absolutely unacceptable that the generators that are burning timber for electricity in northern NSW are claiming renewable energy credits, when there is abundant scientific information available to confirm that the burning of wood produces dangerously high carbon emissions (although you don't have to be a trained scientist to understand this - just walk around town in the middle of winter when residents have their wood fires burning and you'll find the atmosphere is thick with black smoke).

The respected Partnership for Policy Integrity in the US is just organisation that has extensively documented the extent of carbon emissions produced by burning so-called biomass (or wood). The PFPI's findings can be found here: https://www.pfpi.net/wp-content/uploads/2011/04/PFPI-biomass-carbon-accounting-overview_April.pdf A copy of the paper is also attached to this submission. This month's edition of the New Scientist magazine contains the latest scientific findings on the high level of carbon emissions produced by logging.

I respectfully urge committee members to gain a full understanding of the myriad adverse impacts of burning wood for electricity, and to explain them in detail in their final report, and make the appropriate recommendations to bring about a cessation of the practice burning wood for power.

My decision to make a submission was motivated solely by my deep fear and profound sadness about the damage that burning wood for electricity will mean for the absolutely beautiful State forests on the NSW north coast. These forests are precious and increasingly they face an unnecessarily precarious future. They represent some of the last densely forested areas in Australia and provide critical habitat for a wide range of fauna and flora.

In light of the worsening climate crisis and the shamefully high rate of species extinction in Australia, we cannot afford to lose the forests of the NSW north coast, or have them converted to plantations. If the woodburning-for-electricity industry is permitted to continue and expand, it is undeniable that pressure will be brought to bear to open up State forests as a supply source and the rate of clear-felling and deforestation will accelerate. This would be an irreversible tragedy.

Forest timbers are indeed a renewable resource but not in the same way as wind or solar. A tree might be felled in minutes, or even just seconds, but they takes years to grow and flourish, and we can't live without them. It just doesn't make sense to burn trees for electricity. Thank you.

Attachments included with submission:

Carbon emissions from burning biomass for energy, Partnership for Policy Integrity, 2011.