

**Supplementary  
Submission  
No 144a**

## **SUSTAINABILITY OF ENERGY SUPPLY AND RESOURCES IN NSW**

**Name:** Shaunti Kiehl

**Date Received:** 4 May 2020

Re. The submission you requested from myself as a stakeholder:

Hi Alex

An extremely important message I would like to get across to those in decision-making roles such as yours is that biomass and bioenergy absolutely needs to be taken off the table if we are to have a true carbon neutral future, because the fact that the carbon neutrality of biomass has been perverted has left us in grave danger of losing entire forests, with government support and backing to fund new biomass power plants. It is NOT just 'forest waste' that is going to power the plants. Not only is there not enough forest 'residue' to power 30+ megawatt power plants, but the residues already have a market! and if you look at DPI's plans, their idea of residues are whole trees. The environmentally sound way to deal with any residues is to let them compost slowly back into the soil, which slowly releases carbon into the atmosphere- not burning it all at once! Composting is the balanced, natural, sane way. Calling whole trees 'residue' is extremely dangerous. But that is the reality at present in the industry. Just to attract the RECS.

Redbank coal plant is about to receive funding from ARENA in the Hunter to repurpose from coal to biomass. And it's falsely touted as a 'great' thing.

I didn't see anything in your YouTube video about biomass, but I know that the government (ARENA and DPI) are actively pushing for it, and that goes directly against the claim that you want only positive environmental and community impacts.

The Community does not want it hence why it is probably not in your YouTube video. Biomass has no social license.

Biomass as an energy supply will have the worst negative impacts we could possibly imagine. It releases 50% more CO<sub>2</sub> than coal and more volatile compounds and toxins (that Australian air quality laws don't even have set levels for! )

It will destroy our carbon sinks and water catchments and supplies, and destroy biodiversity by turning our forests into woodchips, which is happening now with the existing Cape Byron power plant.

They deny that they use native trees, but it is not regulated, nor is replanting. And even if it was, we do not have 50 years to wait around for trees to regrow. Not to mention that a monoculture does not support life or provide the same environmental services as an old intact forest of mixed native species.

Our public state forests are already being trashed by Forestry NSW. they have just gotten a \$30,000 fine for going against their own sustainability rules & claims!! [https://www.begadistrictnews.com.au/story/6736425/forestry-corporation-fined-30k-for-alleged-offences-in-tantawangalo-forest/?utm\\_email=2a4b1325e0&utm\\_source=Bega+District+News&utm\\_campaign=03dee14327-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2020\\_04\\_27\\_04\\_57&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_b0ff24dc70-03dee14327-66022969&fbclid=IwAR0MkflIWKMxBkRxBtk17-qM3oOfFFGBTpxEKGr\\_CES\\_oa4SBi9JPvi9IxM](https://www.begadistrictnews.com.au/story/6736425/forestry-corporation-fined-30k-for-alleged-offences-in-tantawangalo-forest/?utm_email=2a4b1325e0&utm_source=Bega+District+News&utm_campaign=03dee14327-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_04_27_04_57&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_b0ff24dc70-03dee14327-66022969&fbclid=IwAR0MkflIWKMxBkRxBtk17-qM3oOfFFGBTpxEKGr_CES_oa4SBi9JPvi9IxM)

Biomass is only carbon neutral politically, not factually. carbon gets released when you burn anything, period.

Please let me know what you will do to rectify this dire mistake in carbon accounting at least at a state level, because it is simply wrong, and the ONLY way out of the mess that the IPCC made (20-odd years ago) of this is individual governments taking it off the table as a

'renewable'. Because it is indeed NOT a true renewable. And it will absolutely do more harm than good, economically socially, AND environmentally.

All the best,

Shaunti Kiehl

Please have a look through [www.facebook.com/biomassactiongroup](http://www.facebook.com/biomassactiongroup)