

SEFE managers keep silent at public forum.

Letter to local papers

Why didn't Vincent Philips from the Eden chip mill agree to participate in a public debate on the proposed forest furnace on Twofold Bay?

At a forum The Burning Issue: Forests, Woodchipping and climate on Saturday first of August, chip mill employees handed out leaflets, while other Forestry Industry officials sat quiet as mice in the back of the crowded Twyford Hall with one NAFI representative later asking questions during the panel discussion.

Are they afraid of the truth coming out, that using native forests for woodchips and now for burning in a power station is the worst use of this precious natural eco-system? Plantations, as panellist Dr. Judith Ajani pointed out, are more than enough for any timber and fibre supply.

Native forests are essential to our rainfall and water catchments as well as drawing down the build up of atmospheric carbon; and they are resilient when the wildlife and plants and soils are healthy. Look how they survived for millions of years before man arrived here.

It is not enough just to slow down greenhouse gas emissions, as one of the speakers, scientist Walter Jehne stated; we must stop such destructive low value practices as woodchipping for paper or for electricity from our unique forests and look at high value, low carbon ways for the forests of the region and the world. They are too precious to squander and are essential to the future health of the earth.

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