



Coastwatchers

Eurobodalla's environment group

7-12-2008

Coastwatchers say no to biomass burner

A successful forum was held by Coastwatchers Association and the Eurobodalla Greens in, Moruya recently with around 70 people attending to hear presentations by expert speakers on the role that native forest can play in combating climate change by acting as carbon sinks.

President Mark Fleming said, "This meeting was timely given the international negotiations taking place between the Australia and other nations in the lead up to the updated Kyoto Agreement. Those present expressed concerns that election promises are being watered down at the behest of the big businesses that are contributing to human induced climate change".

"The meeting focused on the contribution that the forest industry, particularly woodchipping, plays in contributing carbon to the atmosphere. Considering that over 80% of the logs taken from the South Eastern forest end up as export woodchips at a rate of 1 Million tonnes per annum and large amounts of forests are burnt after logging, the meeting moved a series of resolutions to take to all tiers of government."

Some of the resolutions that will be taken to local government immediately are:

1. This meeting calls on Eurobodalla and Bega Valley Shire Councils to support their respective communities in advocating for the protection of the South East Forests.
2. This meeting acknowledges the critically important role that our native South East Forests play in protecting the natural environment that we cherish in this region of South East NSW.
 - These forests when protected, maintain:
 - The highest level of water catchment health
 - The diverse, interdependent and intricate web of life
 - Capture and store the highest levels of carbon in its safest form
 - And mitigate against the consequences of global warming induced climate change.
3. We ask that Eurobodalla and Bega Valley Shire Councils assure their respective communities that the Local Environment Plans that will soon be available for public comment do not include any provision for the logging of forests as a feedstock for biomass burning power generation. Additionally, we seek assurances that forest

The Coastwatchers Association Inc.

PO Box 521
Batemans Bay NSW 2536

ABN 66 003 550 939

Email: Coastwatchers@green.net.au

Home Page: www.coastwatchers.green.net.au

fuelled biomass burning power stations are not an allowable or legitimate activity in the Local Environment Plans.

4. Furthermore, this meeting expresses our community's grave concern that our native South East Forests must not be used as a biomass burning fuel source for erroneously called 'Green Power' and fed into the furnace.

In conclusion, "There is little doubt that the logging of native forests in the South East is a significant contributor to Australia's carbon footprint. Recent peer reviewed scientific papers indicate that the local forests can store large amounts of carbon if left to regrow. The current logging of native forests needs to be ended if the community is to benefit from the forest's enormous carbon storage potential".

A presentation will be given to the Eurobodalla Shire Council on the 16th December to seek their support to not include biomass burning as an alternative energy generation option.

Media Contact

Mark Fleming

Mob 0432064727 Ph 44786377