

Media Release

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Rees government fast-tracks koala-killing power station proposal

The Rees government is using its extraordinary planning powers to push through a proposed wood-fired power plant at the Eden chipmill in the state's South-East, according to Greens NSW MP John Kaye.

Dr Kaye said: "NSW Planning Minister Kristina Keneally has used Part 3A of the state's Environmental Planning and Assessment Act to take over the approval of the proposed Eden biomass generator without full public scrutiny.

"The Minister will be able to ignore public comments. The developers will potentially escape the need to prepare a full environmental impact statement.

"South East Forest Exports, the multinational corporation behind the power station plan, is desperately trying to increase the profits it makes from the state government's massive subsidies to its export woodchip operation.

"The Minister has given herself the power to approve the plan and extend the damage that mill is wreaking on south coast native forests and the wildlife they support.

"Minister Keneally can now use her powers under Part 3A to stifle public input on issues such as the devastation of the forests, the greenhouse impacts of the plant, local air quality and the loss of sustainable jobs in tourism and genuinely clean energy generation.

"The plan's environmental credentials have already been dealt a major blow when the region's major electricity supplier, Country Energy, rejected purchasing renewable energy certificates from any native forestry biomass plant.

"Devastating native forest is neither sustainable nor renewable.

"The power station would increase the state's greenhouse gas emissions.

"The history of Part 3A assessments is very bad.

"Kristina Keneally is in serious danger of promoting a white elephant that will be a disaster for the state's biodiversity, add to global warming and compromise a clean energy future for South East NSW," Dr Kaye said.

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