

Submission to Department of Planning re proposed wood fired power station, Lois Katz, 08.04.10

I have many concerns regarding the proposed wood fired power station that South East Fibre Exports, the owners of the Eden chip mill, want to build.

My first issue with the proposal is that it states that the power station will be fuelled with 'waste wood' from logged trees in our native forests. This wood is not waste. It is home to our native animals and stores carbon to help keep our air clean. The wood left over after logging is there due to sloppy logging methods and sawing procedures at the mills. It is ironic the Australia pays other countries tens of millions of dollars not to log their native forests, but we log our own. According to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature 2008 report, Australia has the worst record of mammal extinctions or near extinctions of any developed nation in the world due to deforestation.

I know that the wood chip industry is in a down turn because foreign markets are resisting buying wood from our native forests. So, now rather than looking at cleaner power alternatives, the owner of the chip mill is eyeing another destructive avenue for making money. It is a disgrace that a plan to burn and destroy one million tonnes of our native forests per year for the profit of a few is even being considered. And when the native forests are gone, what will we use for power? This is a short-sighted option that doesn't plan for the future. We should be serious about pursuing renewable energy that can be generated more economically at this site e.g. wind, solar or tidal technologies. Tree regrowth takes decades and a great deal of water. However, the sun, the wind and the tides do not need to regenerate. They are readily accessible.

Another concern is the marine life in Twofold Bay. The temperature of the water to be used in the cooling process at the furnace will be at least 21 degrees hotter than the ocean temperature in the winter. This will have a dire effect on the marine life in the bay. The threatened Weedy Sea Dragon cannot survive in temperatures higher than 22 degrees. The poor Green sea turtles will be attracted to the warmer temperatures only to be sucked in and trapped in the cooling pipes.

I also have fears regarding algae bloom resulting from these higher temperatures. The toxic treatment of the heated water will add to this bloom and make the water unsafe for sea animals and people. This will have a catastrophic effect on the tourist trade in the area. Who is going to dive where the water stinks like rotten eggs and is polluted? The real economic future of this area is its natural beauty and wild life. Whale watching tours are big business there. However, the noise from

the furnace could scare the whales away from Twofold Bay.

I think that we have to call a spade a spade. The developers of this project can gloss over the results of their financial activities but they won't have to personally live with the mess. The owners live in Japan.

For the sake of the future of our children, we must go with cleaner and more easily renewable energy. At first it may seem more expensive, but over the long run: the sun, the wind and the tides are the most economical way to go. The proposed furnace is not efficient. There will be 75% heat loss. If this reckless projects goes ahead, our carbon storing, water storing, native animal housing, rain making, tourist attracting, beautiful native forests will be burnt and turned into ash polluting sediment.

Please do not approve this outrageous proposal.