



Guide for submissions to Bega Valley Shire Council against Allied Natural Wood Exports' new monster mill

Eden chipmill owner, Allied Natural Wood Exports has applied to the Bega Valley Shire Council for approval to build a new sawmill, a new pallet plant and a new briquette plant. This will make it one of the biggest native forest mills in Australia and the monopoly buyer of every tree logged in the Eden Region.

After more than 80% of South Coast forests were burnt in the summer bushfires, the forests of our region simply cannot support this.

To lodge your comments / submissions please send them to:

- **by Post:** General Manager, Bega Valley Shire Council, PO Box 492, Bega NSW 2550
- **by Email:** council@begavalley.nsw.gov.au
- **Online:** [Development Application Submission Form](#)

Send your submission to the Council using all or any of our suggested points below and add any others you think are important.

Timber Optimisation Hub, Development Application (10-2020-81-1)

Submission to Bega Valley Shire Council

1. This Development Application is not just about approval for 3 colorbond sheds.

It is about providing the means for the woodchipping industry to tighten its grip on the forests of the entire South Coast and East Gippsland. The development will make this one of the biggest native forest sawmills in Australia, processing 60,000 m³p/a. Ninety six percent of hardwood sawmills in Australia are less than 45000 m³pa throughput. - [ABARES 2019](#))

In addition to this, it would continue to produce typically over 600,000 tonnes of woodchips a year.

2. This DA, if granted, creates a monopoly buyer for every log produced in the Eden Region.

If Allied Natural Wood Exports (ANWE) gets this project approved, it gets contractual entitlement to every single tree cut down from State Forests in the region. Indeed, it is a condition of the new Wood Supply Agreement, commencing 1 January 2020, between ANWE and the Forestry Corporation that it meets certain milestones in building this new facility. .

https://www.forestrycorporation.com.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/1214637/allied-natural-wood-exports-pty-ltd-hardwood-forests-sawlogs.PDF

3. Stops a transition to plantations for the woodchipping industry and perpetuates intensive native forest logging which has already so degraded the forests of the region.

The Wood Supply Agreement, which requires the approval of this DA, will lock in the use of native forest wood for at least another decade, with 5 yearly extensions after that.

4. The footprint of this new mill will extend far beyond the chipmill fence, even the 240 volt electric fence that surrounds the chipmill.

The DA aims to restrict consideration of vital environmental issues to the 3.5 ha of Lot 16/DP1066187, rather than the whole area in which impacts will be felt. Elsewhere in the DA, in its various assessments of air quality, noise impacts, water resources and quality and motor vehicle traffic there are no geographic limits to the consideration of impacts, provided there is a direct connection. A sound decision must assess direct impacts throughout the supply zone.

5. Bushfire impacts have been ignored.

The DA, especially the report “Biodiversity and EPBC Act Protected Matters Report” ignores the impacts of the summer bushfires on forests intended to supply the mill. It was written before the fires, but no meaningful changes were made to reflect the damage done. In the summer bushfires, 80 percent of the forests available for logging were burnt. An estimated one billion animals were killed. The forests of the region were already overlogged and there are serious doubts about whether the forests can supply enough resource to make the industry viable.

6. Climate issues have been ignored

The Bega Valley Shire has declared a climate emergency and has a Climate Resilience Strategy. This DA makes 2 trivial references to climate, one of them dismissing it as a matter to be considered, because the project is not residential. This raises ethical and possibly legal issues around approval of the DA.

7. Approving the DA will slash direct job numbers in sawmilling from 55 to 20.

In 2019 Blue Ridge Hardwoods, with 55 employees lost the Eden sawlog Wood Supply Agreement to ANWE and is now in the process of closing. ANWE will employ 20, according to the DA.