

To: General Manager and all Councillors
Bega Valley Shire Council
13.09.2021

I wish to state my opposition to Development Application 10-2020-81-1 for a Timber Optimisation Hub, by South East Fibre Exports Pty Ltd / ANWE (now Allied Natural Wood Enterprises), originally approved on 04/09/2020. The DA seeks approval for additional native forest wood processing facilities at the Eden woodchip mill.

I reiterate my statement in my objection to the original development proposal "With more than 80% of our native forests lost in the recent fires, the local environment just cannot bear the impact of this proposal and we ask that the proposal be refused as ANWE hasn't made any assessment of the impact on our climate or forest environment. This is not just about approving three sheds on a block of land at Jews Head as the implications of this proposal going ahead would have dire consequences for our local forests and the threatened species contained therein."

The Statement of Environmental Effects was prepared prior to our catastrophic fires in 2019/20 and doesn't address the impacts of these fires on resource availability. The claim that the development does not alter the timber processing capacity of the site is clearly incorrect.

In its Response to Request for Further Information, the applicant quotes the EPA regarding their issuing Forestry Corporation (FC) with a set of supplementary site-specific environmental conditions and says that they are being tailored to apply to individual fire-damaged sites. What they fail to mention is that FC breached these conditions multiple times and then walked away from negotiations with the EPA saying they will apply their own conditions.

Don't forget that the science has clearly demonstrated many times that the logging of our native forests increases the risk and severity of wildfires. The latest report, published this year, backs up years of previous research: <https://www.uow.edu.au/media/2021/native-forest-logging-makes-bushfires-worse--and-to-say-otherwise-ignores-the-facts.php>.

I ask that Council reject this application as we can no longer afford the costs of this industry on our safety, resources, biodiversity and climate. Ending this industry is one of the best things that Council could do in reducing our carbon emissions in the best interest of the Shire and our people.

Yours sincerely,

Seán Burke
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I respectfully acknowledge the Djiringanj people of the Yuin Nation, the Traditional Custodians of the land on which I live, and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture. I also pay my respects to their Elders past, present and emerging. Sovereignty was never ceded.

I am appalled that the applicant continued with construction of the buildings the subject of this application whilst the matter was still before the NSW Land and Environment Court under appeal. Surely lodgement of the appeal with the Court would require the applicant to suspend work until the case was heard and the judgement handed down. I ask how was this construction allowed to proceed by Bega Valley Shire Council and what are the legal implications of your failure to take action to suspend the construction? I look forward to your response to this question.