

To the General Manager and All Councillors,

Submission on ANWE Development Application (10-2020-81-1) for a Timber "Optimisation" Hub at the Edrom Road Site.

The DPIE report, on which ANWE relied in support of its original application, was written before the release of the IPCC 6th report, which has alerted the world to just how little time is left to take effective action on climate change.

The Bega Valley Shire has already experienced some of the negative effects of global warming such as the unprecedented bushfires of Spring and Summer 2019/2020 and subsequent streambank erosion events following relatively gentle rain on the fire-affected catchments.

The BVSC should reflect on the likely impact of the ANWE hub developments on the nature and intensity of forest logging operations and consequent bushfire risk. Intensive logging makes fuels management by prescribed burning difficult and expensive to carry out, and precludes prescribed burning until the regrowth tree develop thick enough bark to withstand fire without serious damage (i.e. about 15 years or so).

The 1994 EIS on Forestry in the Eden Management Area set out an ambitious program of prescribed burning, but this was only partially implemented due to a number of factors such as the shrinking window of opportunity for prescribed burning due to global warming and the limits of staffing to carry out this difficult task.

Forests NSW have never produced a whole-of-cycle carbon budget for the Eden Management Area operations. Some people would support continued native forest logging for the supply of sawn timber for construction but I doubt that this support would extend to such low value products as hardwood pallets and briquettes. There is an existing sawmill at the Blue Ridge site and it has been used to process some logs since it officially closed.

The BVSC should not approve the ANWE development application in the absence of evidence for the ecological sustainability of the upstream (wood supply) effects in this changing climate. The NSW upper house inquiry into the sustainability of the timber industry in NSW has yet to report and the earlier DPIE report is flawed and out of date. Yours sincerely,

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