

Email to: council@begavalley.nsw.gov.au council@begavalley.nsw.gov.au

To: General Manager and all Councillors

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

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 / Allied Natural Wood Exports (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.

That approval has now been declared invalid by the Land and Environment Court and will be reconsidered by Council on 14 September 2021.

The staff recommendation to Councillors is to approve the new mill. There are some fundamental errors in the Executive Summary on which the Officer's Recommendation is based.

Most importantly: "The development does not seek to alter the timber processing capacity of the site, and timber harvesting does not form part of this development application." This is wrong.

In fact, it is no exaggeration to say that the future of the native forest logging industry in the Eden Region and beyond depends on the chipmill getting this approval.

It's a condition of ANWE's sawlog [Wood Supply Agreement](#) with the Forestry Corporation commencing 1 January 2020 that it must build this new mill. Without approval for this DA, logging to supply sawlogs to ANWE would not occur.

Further, it is a [legal requirement](#) that logging operations must not be driven by woodchipping; they are illegal unless they are driven by saw logging. So, without this mill to process saw logs, logging for woodchips could not occur either.

In other words, the approval for this mill is absolutely essential to the future of the native forest logging industry. If this is approved, remaining native forests in the south east are threatened.

For a Council which has declared a climate emergency and has a Climate Resilience Strategy this is a vital consideration.

When the DA was considered by Council's delegate last year, South East Region Conservation Alliance (SERCA) made a strong and relevant [submission](#) opposing it. I endorse that submission and wish to state my opposition to approval for the new mill.

¹ https://www.forestrycorporation.com.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/1214637/allied-natural-wood-exports-pty-ltd-hardwood-forests-sawlogs.PDF

¹ <https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/-/media/epa/corporate-site/resources/forestagreements/coastal-ifo-protocols.pdf>

¹ https://www.serca.org.au/activism/submissions/2020/DA_SERCA.pdf