



# Coastwatchers

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**Eurobodalla's - Voice for Nature**

26 September 2021

[council@singleton.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@singleton.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Singleton Council

cc: Coastwatchers Members

***Submission opposing S4.56 Modification to allow use of biomass as a fuel source for Lot: 450 DP: 1119428, 112 Long Point – West Road WARKWORTH. (Redback Power Station)***

Coastwatchers' Association Incorporated - objects to allowing the *use of biomass as a fuel source for Redbank Power Station.*

**Native forests are worth more standing in their role to drawdown carbon to negate global heating to keep our communities safe from devastating bushfires. Forests are essential for the continued existence of forest wildlife as well as contributing to our economies through nature based tourism.**

Below are some key arguments against using wood for biomass:

- Using native forest wood for biomass releases locked in carbon as emissions which contributes to temperature increases (global warming) directly increasing fire risk to the local community.
- Scientific evidence indicates that wood-fired power is more carbon emissive than coal, and especially so for Australia's very carbon dense native forest wood.

Coastwatchers is a partner of [Zero SE](#) - *A Beyond Zero Future for South East NSW* with Bushfire Survivors for Climate Change, SHASA, 350 Eurobodalla, Repower Monaro and Climate Action Monaro and Cansign.

- The Zero SE [Forests: Worth More Standing](#) factsheet details the Frances Perkins and Andrew Macintosh [Logging or Carbon Credits](#) finding that \$1.7 m tonnes of carbon emissions would be avoided every year if logging of 400,000 hectares in our southern forestry region of NSW stopped.
- This factsheet compares shire emissions with hectares of state forest to **demonstrate that stopping logging in [Bega](#) and [Eurobodalla](#), would have all emissions from transport,**

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**The Coastwatchers Association Inc.**

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**electricity, gas, waste and agriculture negated.** In [Shoalhaven](#) 16% of emissions are drawn down if logging stops.

- This fact sheet also details how native forests can provide a return to the NSW government if left standing and made eligible under the Federal Government's Climate Solutions Fund.

March 2016 The Australia Institute [Money Doesn't Grow on Trees Report](#)

Feb 2020 The Australia Institute [The opportunity for Australia's native forests](#)

- Logging native forests dries forest out and adds up to 450 tonnes per hectare of fuel load (from whole treetops) to the forest floor directly increasing fire risk to nearby residents, community and visitors threatening the tourism industry.

29 Jan 2020 David Lindenmayer [Post-bushfire logging makes a bad situation even worse, but the industry is ignoring the science.](#)<sup>9</sup>

Jan 2020 Lindenmayer and Zylstra reply to AFPA and CFMMEU [Scientists warn Forest Industry Plan could Increase Fire Risk](#) SMH.

- Native Forests sustain wildlife and most native forest in NSW has been burnt so existing trees need to remain for current and future hollow bearing dependent species. 2 March 2020 [Logging is due to start in fire-ravaged forests this week. It's the last thing our wildlife needs. \(Loss of Hollow Bearing Trees a key threatening process\)](#)
- The native forest industry will be phased out as the transition to plantations is completed. The retooled power station to burn wood instead of coal will then become a stranded asset as community concerns about the use of non FSC native forest wood and the need to retain high carbon locking native forests are fully realised.
- Victoria and more recently WA have announced the end of the native forest industry as it is worth more standing for nature and tourism and jobs. Native forest logging is a dinosaur industry - plantations on marginal agricultural land are much more efficient, profitable and job rich for timber production.
- See [media](#). Western Australia will end native forest logging by January 2024 and invest \$350 million in new softwood plantations, preserving ~ 2,000 jobs, creating ~ 140. It'll also save around 400,000 hectares of forest. This is comparable to 411,000 hectares of native forest being logged in our [Southern Forestry region](#) (Kiola to Eden to Batlow).

Yours sincerely

Secretary

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The Association aims to protect the local environment and preserve the integrity of the ecological systems of the South Coast of NSW. It opposes the unnecessary destruction and degradation of natural systems, unbalanced development and pollution and threats to the survival of plant and animal species and communities.