

# Notes on the meeting today at Condong

Preliminary report for NRG c'tee: more to come.

From Marion

It worked very well to have one staying with the questions while others took notes so comprehensively.

We actually raised every question on our list

Agreed - only a few of the answers were useful ( as they said - they'd only tell us what was on their website)

However the exercise was useful,

At least we each got an impression of what they are about.

After getting a history on woodchip from Dailan today - some things are clearer

These things now stand out for me:

1. They said their 'wood waste' from mills is "free" - they repeated this.

This is a blatant lie

The industry has always had a market for this chipped product - even if for garden mulch - Woodchip was once such a lucrative export market that sometimes whole logs were chipped instead of sawn.

2. The fact that they "are not in the plantation business" means that their demand for "failed plantation" timber is causing deforestation of plantations out west that would probably otherwise be left standing. These plantations are not being replanted so the trees (which are still habitat and carbon sinks) are lost

So again their claim to 'renewable' on this is bunkum (I noted Gerhardt said he "hoped" they were replanted but see the need to know about this)

3. Wood residues isn't just "rounds, offcuts & sawdust" it is also trees under a certain log size

So - like in the US - it is worth clear felling for these small trees if there is a strong enough chip market

Dailan is seeing a lot more clear felling and - yes - a huge amount of that demand is from the new "wood pellet" & chip export industry but local demand for "biomass chips" is a factor.

It is important to get the FOI info on CBP volumes / percentages of chips. That way it can be measured to see if it keeps increasing

And then we have the data to refute their claim to be using "bagasse" as the main fuel stock.

Until we have the data we can't prove that this plant or any other new plants are adding to forest clearing due to their demand.

The end result I presume is to show an example of one company as "typical" of others to prove a compounding effect on forests

Meanwhile a company called Midway Forest Products is taking timber from our region & exporting it out of Bne. This needs more investigation as to if it is part of the international Pellet-Piracy

Yes I agree - all bad news - hard to wake up each day & watch state of the world around us

But good to be trying to help something,

Marion

Shaunti

Yes, mine too. I went to the beach and cried. A lot. For everything. And it's so difficult to do anything about it.

But hey, at least no one is getting taken to court ... it was a decent meeting.

I tried to edit as best I could the following notes: maybe Kim has some notes as well, to paint a fuller picture, on top of yours?

My conclusion, for what it's worth:

- and i quote Gerhard:

“ ‘(the energy) market is changing dramatically’ ‘(we are?) actually losing money’ “ maybe someone has more complete notes on that statement, but in essence:

I feel like at the end of the day, these guys are just like Forestry and all the other future-fuckers. They are running a negatively-gearred or neutrally-gearred operation, just trying to keep themselves in a bloody JOB. it's the same story the world over....

I admit that my head's in a muddle. We had a v. friendly conversation with Gerhard and co today , but I am somewhat confused as to the value of our findings. Shaunti said she'll send me her notes, typed during the meeting and I will add mine to it, then get that summary to you for editing. Look for it tomorrow, as I believe we are all a little fatigued at this point.

Thanks so much for your contributions to date.

And welcome to NRG Shaunti and Kim, our newest members ( around 650 of us.)

Cheers,

Sledge