

Submission guide: Opportunity to make a difference for our sustainable future

This is a chance to advocate for true renewable energy and to stop de-forestation and burning trees for electricity.
for the forests,

And to stop the burning of trees for electricity

Dear friends of the forests,

Last week I attended an info session about a NSW Parliamentary Inquiry Energy and found that it offers a great opportunity for us to raise our concerns about biomass burning.

See my info below. Also available at this shared [link](#)

Burning trees for electricity- Not Clean, Not Green, Not renewable, Not wanted!

Submission guide: inquiry into the sustainability of energy supply and resources in NSW

The Environment and Planning Committee of the NSW parliament has established an inquiry into the Sustainability of energy supply and resources.

Submissions are open until 15 September [and can be made online](#). To find out about the inquiry and how to submit phone 02 9230 3054 or email environmentplanning@parliament.nsw.gov.au

The terms of Reference for the Inquiry are: That the Committee on Environment and Planning inquire into and report on the sustainability of energy supply and resources in NSW, including:

- 1. The capacity and economic opportunities of renewable energy.*
- 2. Emerging trends in energy supply and exports, including investment and other financial arrangements.*
- 3. The status of and forecasts for energy and resource markets.*
- 4. Effects on regional communities, water security, the environment and public health.*
- 5. Opportunities to support sustainable economic development in regional and other communities likely to be affected by changing energy and resource markets, including the role of government policies.*

6. *Any other related matters.*

Anyone can make a submission. The more on a particular issue, the more likely it will get some attention from the Inquiry.

This is a great opportunity to raise our concerns about burning wood for electricity.

You start with your name, and telling the Inquiry a little bit about yourself or your group and why you are making a submission.

Then make your points. Listed below are a few ideas. It's important that you put these in your own words and add references where relevant. You can also include photos.

There are two electricity generators in north-east NSW that burn wood. These were originally designed to run on Bagasse, they were converted to burn other sugar cane trash and Camphor Laurel, but that was unsuccessful, and now they are consuming 140,000 tonnes of wood a year and selling the electricity produced as 'GreenPower'.

At present, most of this wood is coming from sawmills and Managed Investment Scheme (MIS) plantations. Many belonged to Forest Enterprises Australia, who claimed they were planting for timber production not woodchips. But all the MIS plantation schemes went bust.

The Carbon Dioxide emissions from these facilities are not counted toward any national targets or limits, because 'biomass' is considered to be carbon neutral. These facilities get Renewable Energy Credits for the wood that they burn.

More than 800 climate scientists and ecologists have written to various international agencies, stating that the burning of woody biomass should be counted towards our emissions, because the lag time in the landscape in re-capturing the carbon can be decades (in the case of the north coast plantations, they are being converted to pasture so the carbon will never be recaptured).

There are significant impacts on communities, especially from the thousands of truck movements along small rural roads. There have been accidents and the roads themselves have deteriorated and are now dangerously potholed.

Once the failed plantations have all been burned there will be pressure from the company to get access to trees from State Forests.

The Department of Primary Industry has already identified hundreds of thousands of tonnes of wood/annum that could come from private and State Forests for burning.

Industries like this drive deforestation and clear-felling. The woodchipping industry in Eden has converted multi-age diverse forests into largely single age regrowth with little to no complexity or habitat value. Many animal species, such as the koala, have almost disappeared as a result.

The DPI was the agency auspicing Forestry Corporation of NSW. They were working hand in glove with the drive for logging intensification now enshrined in the new Coastal Integrated Forestry Operations Approvals.

Intensification of logging in State Forests leads to declines in water yield, increased fire risk and declines in biodiversity.

It also leads to declines in stored carbon.

With the double whammy of climate and extinction crises, we should be protecting our forests, which in turn protect our catchments, shelter our unique plants and animals and store carbon.

You may also want to make comments about coal and gas and the need for genuine renewables, microgrids etc.

Submissions to parliamentary inquiries are 'privileged'. Don't publish or publicly share your submission until it has been published by the committee.