

Ilise Bourke

From: Lorraine Leddin <sweetestsunny@bigpond.com>
Sent: Friday, 18 January 2013 6:12 PM
To: tfacommittee
Subject: FW: Wood-fired power stations in Tasmania.

From: Lorraine Leddin [mailto:sweetestsunny@bigpond.com]
Sent: Friday, 18 January 2013 6:01 PM
To: tfacommttee@parliament.tas.gov.au
Subject: Wood-fired power stations in Tasmania.

Due to the lateness of beginning this part of my submission, in three parts, that is , Firefighting, Tourist Roads through Tasmanian National Parks, I beg additional time in which to amplify these thoughts.

Briefly, the acceptance of wood bio-mass waste from mills and other industries for Renewable Energy Credits must be placed before our Federal Parliament once more, following its disgraceful knockback by the casting vote of Mr. Slipper, when put In March , 2012. In a 70 votes for, and with 70 votes against, his one vote in support of the Green alliance and pressure, effectively disabled all investment opportunities around our Nation, for the utilisation of the thousands of tonnes of mill and other sources of waste, which if used as raw material for power-generation, 24 hours/day, would have provided in Tasmania an alternative of electricity, jobs, jobs, jobs in the associated industries and companies, and the forest industry would increase its bottom line for profitability, by turning waste into by-product recovery revenue. So often, it is by-product recovery which in difficult economic conditions, is the difference between loss or profit for an organisation.

In Tasmania, I am not the first to propose using wood-waste for power generation. I submit the need for one power station in the north of the State, and another in the south, in the Geeveston/Port Huon area.

To begin to quantify the thousands of tonnes of mill waste accumulating around the State, and aerial photographic survey should be conducted, in conjunction with whatever ground photographic evidence could be obtained. Mill and other wood waste producing sources need to be surveyed for meaningful quantities for budget/business/investment plan purposes, to guide would-be power generation investors.

Regarding the Triabunna wood chip stockpile. Ownership and future use legalities aside, two purpose-built catamaran-style barges could be built by Incat, to transport the chips from Triabunna, through the Denison Canal, to Port Huon.

Such barges could also be designed to transport logs from that area to a power station in the suggested south part of Tasmania.

Again, the overall, and total improvement in the viability of the forest industry in Tasmania, would be hugely benefitted by recovering the value in all its waste wood. It is wholly profligate to squander this resource, whilst ever it is not being used to generate needy revenue for every interested party.

Again, it is jobs, jobs, jobs – and votes, votes, votes. Every Tasmanian wants cheaper electricity, another source thereof, and more jobs for young and old alike. Forestry and every associated business enterprise desperately needs more revenue.

Thus, hope for the young if there are more jobs being created, and seen to be created, by positive Tasmanian Government (with or without the Greens) policy decisions.

The present Tasmanian Government, when it took the lead in legislating for homosexual marriages to be recognised in this State, paid back a debt to the Green Party, and to a small segment of society, demanding such.

The total population of Tasmania are now due to be favoured, by the present Premier taking the initiative, and legislating for wood bio-mass waste to be accepted for Renewable Energy Credits in Tasmania. By thus doing, power station investors would see that Tasmania is really open for business on this vital economic front also.

The concept of utilising bio-mass wood waste for ethanol production in Tasmania is a few years premature. The technology is still being perfected. Few pilot plants are in existence. It would be five to ten years before it would be wise for any in Tasmania to seriously consider this field for investment.

In addition, competition from lower wage cost countries, and our high exchange rate, all mitigate against the economic viability of ethanol and lignan from wood waste produced in Australia being anywhere near competitive on the world market.

By comparison, electricity generated from waste-wood, in Tasmania, at our wage rates, would be bought by Australians on our wage rates (hopefully at less cost than Hydro power), and transported by Basslink to the mainland.

Wood waste power stations would operate 24 hours per day, and power be available to recharge battery-powered vehicles wishing to be recharged overnight, every night. An advantage when the sun is not shining, and the wind not blowing – other alternative energy generators relying on the sun and the wind.

This is submitted on the realisation that it is past the closing time for acceptance for submissions. However, for the Forest Peace Deal, we hope some thoughts presented here may be included for the benefit of all Tasmanians, indirectly through having another source electricity made available, and directly, for those for whom jobs, jobs, jobs would be created in the forestry industry.

With sincere thanks, Jeff Leddin.