**Strategy**

**Persuade Labor to revert to its 2013 policy not to allow Native Forest Biomass to be burnt for power**

* Communicate with key Labor policy makers **CONTACT DETAILS** below
* Communicate directly with Mark Butler, Shadow Minister for Climate Change and Energy, maybe also Bill Shorten and Tony Burke, stating **why your organisation endorses the National Position Statement against Forest Bioenergy**. Use *Letters, meetings, tweets, Facebook, email.*
* Remind him/them that in 2012 Labor voted to remove the loophole that allowed native forests to be subsidised as renewable when burnt providing the reason they did this, in their own words:

*"Wood waste from native forests was removed from the RET as an eligible renewable energy source in 2011. This amendment was made to ensure that the RET did not provide an incentive for the burning of native forest wood waste for bio-energy, which could lead to unintended outcomes for biodiversity and the destruction of intact carbon stores."*

The above statement was issued by Labor March 2013.  **Ask Labor to have the courage to re-commit to this former sensible policy, especially now that we are in a climate change emergency.**

* **Specifically request Labor to agree to remove the legislation the Abbott government enacted in 2015** that allows native forests to be burnt and subsidised as a renewable energy under the provisions of the revised Renewable Energy Target (RET). They would need to repeal amendments in Part 4 of Schedule of 1 of the Renewable Energy (Electricity) Amendment Bill 2015 reinstating native forest biomass as an eligible renewable energy source.

**2. Hold Labor to its election promise to champion science in policy making by demonstrating it will drop non science based policy, especially in relation to forests and climate**

Bill Shorten has consistently criticised the ‘anti-science attitude in the current political discourse’\* yet Labor *now adopts an utterly unscientific policy in relation to native forests*.

“If Labor wins the upcoming federal election we will end the Coalition’s war on science.” <https://www.innovationaus.com/2019/03/Research-grants-to-be-reviewed>

and previously,Nov 2018 to the Academy of Science: <https://www.innovationaus.com/2018/11/Shorten-offers-big-lift-in-science>

* Send letters to Bill Shorten and Mark Butler explaining that their native forest logging and burning policies directly contravene all scientific advice.
* Include the scientific evidence of which there is plenty in the CORE document in this package entitled Why Native Forest Logging and Clearing Must End and Forests Not be Burnt for Energy, taken special notice of ENDNOTE 14 that lists all the scientists’ letters and academies internationally over the last decade against forest bioenergy. Endnote 14 appears below:
* Mention that your organisation is comprised of members and networks that value scientifically sound policy.

Endnote 14: A small sample only of the many reports and letters from scientists (and economists) to policy makers against legitimising forest derived biomass energy and fuel. Australian scientists have also written to Australian policy makers and politicians urging them not to adopt forest derived biomass as feedstock for energy and fuel.

**International Warnings**

*Letter from 600 scientists to the EU Parliament Regarding Forest Biomass*, 2018

*Letter from the European Academies Science Advisory Council (EASAC) to the President of the European Commission*, https://easac.eu/news/details/easacs-correspondence-with-the-president-of-the-european-commission-on-the-role-of-biomass-energy/

https://www.euractiv.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2018/01/Letter-of-Scientists-on-Use-of-Forest-Biomass-for-Bioenergy-January-12-2018.pdf

<https://www.chathamhouse.org/publication/woody-biomass-power-and-heat-impacts-global-climate> *Opinion of the European Environment Agency Scientific Committee on Greenhouse Gas Accounting in relation to Bioenergy*, 2011, <https://www.eea.europa.eu/about-us/governance/scientific-committee/sc-opinions/opinions-on-scientific-issues/sc-opinion-on-greenhouse-gas/view>

*Scientists’ letter from the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, US to the British Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change and the Chief Scientific Advisor to the Department of Energy and Climate Change, 2014*

Agostini, A., et al. 2014. *Carbon accounting of forest bioenergy JRC Scientific and Policy Reports.* Ispra, Joint Research Centre, Institute for Energy and Transport, Italy

*US Scientists to the EU Commission, 2013*

*US Scientists to the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives and the Majority Leader in the U.S. Senate, 2010Scientists letter to Honorable Roy A. Cooper, North Carolina Office of the Governor,*

**Australian Warnings:**

Scientists’ *Open Letter to The Australian Parliament, Senators and Members*, re inclusion native forest biomass in the Renewable Energy Target, 2015

“*The Climate Change Authority’s Forestry Fumble”*, Andrew MacIntosh and Richard Denniss, The Australia Institute, 2012,http://www.climatespectator.com.au/commentary/ccas-forestry-fumble

*Scientists’ Open Letter of Concern - incentives for native forest biomass burning* to MP Rob Oakeshott and Members of the Australian Parliament, 2012

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