**4 DRAFT Letters to Editors about forest derived biomass. Please adapt and create a title for your own purposes. Don’t forget content and references in the CORE docs that can support any claims in these DRAFTS or any you want to compose.**

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**1.**

**There is something extremely disturbing about burning native forests for power.**

At a time when the native forest logging industry is heading the way of Australia’s old whaling industry, along comes a bright new idea for cutting down forests – burning trees in furnaces to generate electricity. This is also at a time when the call for clean renewable energy is becoming louder daily.

We are at a critical cross-road for the planets’ ability to sustain the ecosystems it has developed over millions of years. Forests are regarded as not only the lungs of the planet, a natural air-conditioner, but they are a significant carbon capture and storage method so urgently needed for climate moderation. They do this by storing carbon in the trees and vegetation and by creating humus and soil which safely locks up carbon. They shade the earth and hold water.

It is telling that in 2019, both major parties support the ongoing destruction of native forests, not to woodchip and turn into paper but to now throw hundreds of thousands of tonnes into electricity furnaces, to power air conditioners in an ever heating world.

Governments must protect our ailing planet over and above the influences of extractive industry profiteering.

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**2.**

**A significant proportion of voters are looking to political parties on the critical issue of climate; will they promise nothing and increase the chaos, or pay lip service and then do equally nothing?**
Burning forest biomass for electricity generation is the telling sign. Both major parties are currently in favour of this more destructive means of power generation. Yet it is proven to create more CO2 and greenhouse gasses per unit of energy produced than burning coal does. These emissions are immediate in their effect on the atmosphere. It also destroys natural forests which are one of our greatest carbon capture and storage solutions – a tried and true method over millions of years.
There is currently a large logging industry push to fund and promote the cutting down of forests. Our natural forests also happen to be critical habitat for many rare species of wildlife and essential components of our water catchments and rain cycles.

Both Bill Shorten and Scott Morrison must commit to urgently move away from emissive power sources such as fossil fuels, but should not make the mistake of substituting it with a more emissive alternative that can provide the climate moderation we so urgently need to get working on.

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**3.**

**As our climate continues to become unpredictable and extreme, as farmers are finding it almost impossible to farm in some areas now, and as we are seeing more signs of ecosystem collapse the Coalition and Labor are simply fiddling.**
From burning native forest in furnaces to generate electricity to an energy intensive process of turning trees into jet fuel, there is a worldwide push by the global logging industry to now cut down natural forests to use as ‘renewable energy’. This is contrary and anti-science in the extreme. Sadly, both major political parties support such a plan.

Labor and Coalition have both swallowed the simplistic claim that even though centuries of stored carbon in forests and trees are released as greenhouse gas emissions, they are recovered in the subsequent y regrowth. This is like emptying a tank of good water and expecting it to be replaced by a slow dripping tap.
Burning forests while claiming it to be ‘renewable energy’ ignores the obvious - that it creates a long term carbon debt that could take many decades or even centuries to repay.

Forests are recognised as being critical for rain, for habitat, soil holding, flood moderation, cooling, for fresh air and now as critically important for carbon capture and climate moderation.

(211 words)

**4.**

**BURNING FORESTS FOR ELECTRICITY IS DEEPLY UNPOPULAR**

We have to ask why our federal politicians continue to pander to the climate-destroying industries such as coal and forest destruction?

The clearfelling of native forests to woodchip and export to overseas paper factories has been deeply unpopular with Australians but is now in collapse. Rather than protection and restoration as part of an important climate-repair solution, there is an even greater plan of destruction - clearfelling public forests to burn for energy. Both major parties are supportive of this bizarre idea.

The logging industry proposes to burn publicly owned native forests for electricity or to process into fuel. To sell this absurd climate-heating proposal, both Labor and the Coalition have attempted to pass this off as ‘renewable’ energy.

Forests are critical for biodiversity and wildlife, water catchment protection, carbon capture and storage, recreation and enjoyment, and in this ever heating planet as part of the need for urgent climate moderation.

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