

Editor  
Port Macquarie News

## **Waste Wood Energy Canned**

Dear Sir,

The National Media (SMH 25<sup>th</sup> Oct) have recently pointed out the irony of the poor political outlook for local independent Rob Oakeshott given the massive boost in federal funding that he has managed to pump into the Lynne electorate in recent months. Being “kingmaker” for Julia obviously pays dividends with treasury, but perhaps not at the polling booth? However Rob’s preoccupation with the “bigger picture” seems to be at the expense of working for his local electorate on issues that are critical for local businesses. For example the Federal Government is proposing to prevent wood waste from sustainably managed native forests from being utilized for Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs). This decision will impact on many timber businesses across the Lynne electorate and flow through to their employees and families.

It is crazy to put up barriers to local industries that employ large numbers of people. Despite what the anti-logging people say, using wood from sustainably managed forests can both remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and substitute for metal, concrete and plastic products which produce vastly more greenhouse gas in their manufacture than does timber. The canning of waste wood from renewable energy generation in Australia is totally opposite to the thinking in the rest of the developed world. Yet despite extensive representations from local businesses and timber industry representatives, Rob has done nothing to change the Government’s direction on this issue.

Logic would indicate that using waste wood to produce energy instead of extracting coal and gas to do the same job would be a win for the environment and for local timber businesses. Surely it is not too much to expect that a local member with considerable influence in Canberra might support local industries and employment?

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1/11/2011