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The Renewable Energy Sub Group Secretariat
Renewables, Offsets and COAG Branch
Department of Climate Change
GPO Box 854
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Re. Submission: Inclusion of Wood Waste in RET scheme.

To whom it may concern,

I am an eco-tourism operator in the Huon Valley, Southern Tasmania and a strong supporter of renewable energy initiatives. My accredited tourism business is run on solar power, locally collected rainwater and environmentally friendly products.

I wish to express my deep concern about the potential impacts of proposals to burn native forest “biomass” in my community and across Australia.

People from around Australia and the world visit my eco tourism business. I am situated down the valley from the proposed Southwood Power station. Forestry Tasmania proposes to burn hundreds of thousands of tonnes of timber at this site. I am concerned that this will cause serious air pollution issues, exacerbating the already extreme pollution events occurring as a result of forest management in this area.

Plans to burn native forest for power will also place unreasonable pressure on native forests ecosystems as a result of increased harvesting and machinery impacts.

I understand that millions of litres of water will be drawn from the Huon River every day for this proposed power station.

As a business operator and employer in the Huon Valley I am deeply concerned about plans to include native forest biomass in an expanded Renewable Energy Target scheme.

I find it very concerning that a scheme, which should be providing incentives to develop real, clean energy, may provide support to a very polluting, archaic form of power generation.

I believe that there will be massive public concern and opposition to plans to include wood waste in the RET scheme and that this will reflect badly on the scheme itself.

Please heed the very serious concerns of local communities and remove native forest wood waste from the list of eligible renewable energy sources.

Yours sincerely, Michael Higgins- Owner/Operator

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