

POWER STATION PROCESS - START AGAIN AND GET IT RIGHT

Greens MP and lead Upper House candidate David Shoebridge, set to visit the Bega electorate this Friday 11 February, has called on NSW Labor and the Coalition to place a halt on the development application for the Eden chipmill wood fired power station until a full carbon analysis has been conducted.

“The application for the power station has been conducted in a secretive way which gives the Greens no confidence that the community and environmental interests have been properly considered,” Mr Shoebridge said.

“However, one thing we do know is that it failed to fully and accurately assess climate impacts of burning native forest wood.

“It is just not good enough to hide behind the word ‘waste’, because we all know that without a million tonnes of woodchipping there would be no ‘waste’ for the fuel,” Mr Shoebridge said.

“The Labor Government has refused to release public submissions on the power station and could still approve it in the dying days of its period in office.

“If this were to happen the public would have no idea whether matters raised during the submission process have been properly dealt with.

“The application is being considered under the undemocratic Part 3A of the Planning Act, which gives the Minister for Planning extraordinary powers to approve development projects.

“It is no secret that the Greens have opposed the categorisation of burning native forest wood as renewable power. We also have concerns about whether the plant proposed would have sufficient safeguards against toxic emissions which may reach the town of Eden.

“This proposed power station, if it goes ahead, will be Australia’s first wood fired power station since the 19th century. It is important that the process is above reproach.

“The Coalition has said that it will abolish Part 3A planning approvals but it has committed to continue to process this application under the faulty law.

“The Greens are calling for a full carbon analysis of the project to be part of any approval process.

“The election provides an excellent opportunity to scrap the current process and start again with a transparent and adequate assessment process if the chipmill still wants to go ahead with the project,” Mr Shoebridge said.

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