

1. Last year we saw the lowest level of woodchip exports ever (apart from the year when the chipmill was burnt in the Black Summer fires). Last year it was 275,793 GT. Quite a few of us here today can remember when it was over a million tonnes a year. Every year.
2. Last year also, the owner of the chipmill, ANWE, made a record almost **\$31** million loss. The operator of the mill, Pentarch Group made a loss of just under \$13 million.
3. Last year too, the Forestry Corporation made its biggest ever trading loss of \$32 million, adding to losses of over \$100 million in recent years. And that trading loss was not the whole story of its cost to us taxpayers. The Forestry Corporation and other sections of the industry received their usual dose of generous direct subsidies.
4. In the last year also, Eden had the lowest number of woodchip carrier visits ever. So far this year there has only been one. It used to be one a fortnight.
5. As you might expect, the amount of logging has dropped too. Right now, there are just 4 active logging operations between Nowra and the Victorian border. Just a couple of years ago, there would have been at least a dozen.
6. Another area where we have had a lot of good news is the law. I was hoping that the Land and Environment court would have made a decision on SEFR's Greater Glider case by now. SEFR made history last year by winning a Forestry Corporation challenge to a High Court decision which gave some community groups the right to prosecute the Forestry Corporation for breaches of logging rules. Until that decision, only the EPA could prosecute. We had the absurd situation where only one government agency could prosecute another government agency.
7. The woodchipping industry wouldn't exist unless someone was buying the woodchips and we are working in that front too with friends in Taiwan – the biggest woodchip buyer now.

8. I should add here – the level of logging might have dropped, but there are still horrific things happening such as Glenbog. In the last few days the Forestry Corp reaffirmed its intention to log there, which is a Greater Glider and wombat hotspot. Pat on back for Ray and Maree, Sooty and Andrew W. Sign the petition at the SERCA tent!
  
9. So. You've heard a lot of good news. But you've probably noticed a big gap in the issues I've mentioned. Politics. The political outlook is still not good. Over decades, I don't think I have ever seen an opinion poll that shows a majority of voters want native forest logging. Politicians have been defying public opinion for years and it has to stop. We have a conservative and timid state government, so that's where we have to focus. And by being here today, we are all helping to do that!