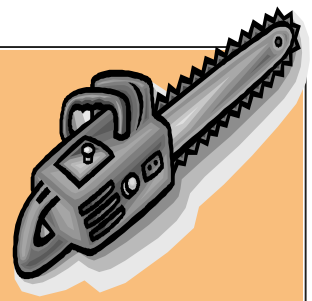


chipstopper



Taxpayers in the red from woodchips

Did you know that the entire woodchipping industry in the south east is worth just about \$6million gross to the taxpayers of New South Wales?

If costs associated with operating the Eden and Batemans Bay offices and workshops are deducted, it is highly likely that the taxpayers end up in the red.

We are currently attempting to obtain figures on the costs of operating these establishments, and won't be surprised if the outgoings are well over the \$6million mark.

If all of this destruction makes a loss for the public of NSW, why are we doing it? A new analysis of SEFE's finances

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SEFE cheats its own Workers

South East Fibre Exports has been caught out trying to swindle its own workers. A judgment in the Australian Industrial Relations Commission in July squarely pointed the finger at chipmill managers for trying to evade an agreement to pay a 5% loading to staff who worked a double shift. They refused to pay the allowance to a worker called Shorty Goward who ceased to be employed, but was later re-employed. The company then refused to pay Shorty because, they said, his employment commenced after the time the agreement was originally made.

Their aim was to limit the agreement, made in 1996, to pay the 5% allowance to its workers so that it only applied to those employees who were employed at the time of the agreement (and not those who were engaged afterwards).

The commission rejected that argument and found that it applied to all employees whether employed at the time or engaged later. In other words, SEFE tried to not only dud the forests, it wanted to also dud its own employees, and it lost. ◀

<http://72.14.235.104/search?q=cache:5YLDGNTykZ0J:www.airc.gov.au/decisionsigned/PR973235.doc+South+East+Fibre+Exports&hl=en&gl=au&ct=clnk&cd=8>

Staff Changes at the Chipmill

There are some new faces in the upper ranks of South East Fibre Exports following the untimely demise of former General Manager, John Sparkes. Ex-Forestry Manager, Peter Mitchell was promoted to the top job, with his old position being filled by ex-Victorian DPI Manager Forest Policy, Peter Rutherford.

Peter Rutherford

Rutherford is well known to Victorian forest activists as a vigorous opponent with a vindictive streak and a long memory.

He used his position in Victorian government to pursue personal vendettas against a number of individual activists and was responsible for ordering "Operation Medieval", the removal of the Goolengook fort. Over 100 arrests later, the area is now under review for inclusion into National Park.

His efforts ended up costing Victorian



taxpayers \$1.7million when the royalties from the logging amounted to a paltry \$85,000. While SEFE has a big pile of money in the bank (currently estimated at approximately \$20 million) we don't believe that such a reckless approach to income and expenditure will endear him to his new employers.

Rutherford formed the DNRE anti-protestor squad in late 2001, led by the ex cop Tim Collins. That unit moved all over Victoria using rough-hand tactics to break-up blockades. He was then moved sideways into the new Victorian Forests Unit and apparently gave up hope for promotion there.

Peter Mitchell

Peter Mitchell is well known to local forest campaigners as the man who once used his chainsaw to chop the legs off a standing tripod during an Edrom Road blockade.

His debut blockade as General Manager came on July 4 when he showed what a 'hands on' manager he can be by directing trucks along a forest side road, never previously used by trucks in this way. Unfortunately for him and the truckies, we made sure that the first truck was the only one to make it through. The second truck was stopped and held up for several more hours when two people locked themselves to its undercarriage.

As well getting as a new General Manager and Forestry Manager, we understand that SEFE's resident Japanese Director and golf enthusiast, Mr Eiichi Aoyama has also been recalled to Japan. ◀

The April Fool

Special Minister of State, Gary Nairn was so annoyed by an April Fools joke that he has sooled the Australian Federal Police onto one of his constituents as well as referring the matter to the Parliamentary Privileges Committee.

A Bega forest campaigner has been forced to endure a long period of uncertainty while the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions has considered whether to accept an AFP recommendation that she be charged over the joke.

Following Mr Nairn's complaint, the AFP advised Ms Harriett Swift that they wanted her charged with offences which carry a total of 5 years in prison and were recommending that the DPP should prosecute her. The prank was intended to draw attention to taxpayer handouts to the woodchipping industry. About a week

before April Fools Day 2005, Gary Nairn [announced \\$696,603 of federal Government cash grants](#) to some local logging contractors, including \$165,400 to Bruce Mathie and Sons for a mechanical harvester. (Each mechanical harvester, incidentally puts 4 loggers out of work).

The Joke

On April Fool's Day 2005, someone purporting to be [Gary Nairn wrote to Mathie](#), canceling the grant, saying that this type of pork barreling was getting the government a bad press and with a parliamentary committee inquiry going on into the Community Partnerships Program, the Government had decided to rescind Mathie's grant.

Gary Nairn's Response

On August 10th 2005, [Mr Nairn raised the matter in the House of Representatives](#), tabled the offending material

and referred the matter to the Parliamentary Privileges Committee without mentioning, incidentally, that the deed was done on April Fools Day. On 8 June 2006, the AFP paid a second visit to the south coast, seized computers used by Keith Hughes and Chipstop Convenor Harriett Swift and also took some files.

The AFP have recommended to the DPP that Harriett Swift should be charged with offences under the Criminal Code Act.

On 18 August 2006, Gary Nairn, as Special Minister of State announced massive increases in the printing and postage allowances for MPs to bombard their voters with junk mail. How does he think his constituents get hold of his signature and letterhead in the first place? ◀

http://chipstop.forests.org.au/april_fools_day.htm

Certification Con

Forests NSW is bragging that it has obtained environmental certification for its forests. An article in the spring "Bush Telegraph" reveals that Forests NSW systems have been "audited and passed to the ISO14001 standard."

What does this really mean? According to FNSW acting Chief Executive Alistair Howard: "this will give an independent and rigorous assurance of sustainability to the consumers of timber products that come from New South Wales State Forests."

It sounds good, but it's not true. ISO14001 is not a system of environmental certification and does not claim to be a label of sustainability.

All it does is demonstrate that a management system is in place which might be used to implement a standard once the organization has adopted an environmental standard. In itself it says nothing about the environmental standards of the organisation.

ISO 14001 was first published in 1996 and according to its official website is "applicable to any organization that wishes to:

- implement, maintain and improve an en-

vironmental management system

- assure itself of its conformance with its own stated environmental policy (**those policy commitments of course must be made**)
- demonstrate conformance
- ensure compliance with environmental laws and regulations
- seek certification of its environmental management system by an external third party organization make a self-determination of conformance."

The important clause here is: "those policy commitments of course must be made". In other words, once ForestsNSW sets itself an environmental standard, it will be

well placed to implement it. All it needs now is the standard!

Where all this is leading is to position FNSW to adopt the discredited Australian Forestry Standard accreditation. AFS was the brainchild of the former mad Minister, Wilson Tuckey and is the key to Eden woodchips being saleable in Japan into the future. ◀



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shows that its return on assets was 20.0% for 2005.

For Forests NSW, the equivalent return was just 1.47%, and that includes income from its highly profitable plantation sector. ◀

A million tonnes a year

Woodchip exports will crack the million tonnes a year again, according to SEFE Corporate Affairs Manager, Mr Vince Phillips.

In a statement to media, Mr Phillips has revealed that exports will again reach the heady levels of pre-RFA years. About half of this wood comes from Victoria and half comes from NSW ◀