

## **MANJIMUP BIOMASS SUPPORTERS GROUP LAUNCHED**

More than a hundred people and organisations have signed up to the Manjimup Biomass Supporters Group.

The group held its first meeting in Manjimup today and announced that more than a 100 individuals and local businesses and associations had joined representing a diverse range of interests.

Tish Campbell from the Timber Communities Australia was elected as the group's spokesperson.

"The supporter's group has been established to counter the mis-information and irrational and emotive nonsense that has been coming from a very small number of people who have been against the power plant," Tish Campbell said.

"It's very important that this vital project has a sensible voice in the community and our group represents individuals, private companies, public companies and local associations who have become very concerned at the mis-information campaign in recent months.

"There are a large number of silent supporters of this project and we want to give them a voice in ensuring a balanced debate in the establishment of this vital project. There were over 350 submissions to the Manjimup Shire Council in support of the project against about 150 against.

"We are in a position where the whole world is trying to find solutions to global warming and right here in our own backyard is a proposal for a project which will see the use of State Government registered forestry plantation waste used to create desperately needed electricity with material that otherwise would be burnt in the open.

"We strongly believe that the data shows that burning this forest plantation waste in the proposed plant will be environmentally better than is currently the case.

"It will also provide employment for more than 40 permanent and 60 related positions in the local community which are badly needed following the huge loss of jobs and disruptions to families following the changes to the native forest agreements. I understand the plant will also be offering traineeships to become certified plant operators which enable them to work in other plants around the world.

"The Manjimup area is getting more and more blackouts because of the increase in demand for electricity as this region is at the end of the network and are the first to go off line if there is a problem on the lines.

"If the power plant is developed then there will be significantly more reliability for electricity for our growing industry and community in the Manjimup region.

"The supporter's group has expressed its dismay over the mis-information being put about by the No Biomass Group, especially the completely inaccurate and extravagant environmental data being bantered around.

"They then turn around and say it's OK to put the power plant in the Manjimup Industrial Estate which is actually closer to the township than the proposed Diamond Mill site.

"They can't have it both ways and then keep changing tact all the time," Tish Campbell said.

"They have also been wrong on truck movements. Anyone who has been in the region longer than just a few years can remember more trucks when during the use of native forests than are currently running on the improving road network.

“Most of the trucks coming back to the Diamond Mill plant empty from delivering wood chips to Bunbury will be back-filled with plantation waste for the power station.

Members of the supporter’s group include;

Farmers from Manjimup, Middlesex and the surrounding regions,

Horticulturalists, Vegetable growers, vineyard owners, orchardists.

Residents Manjimup, Jardee, Bridgetown

Engineering and Trucking companies

Manjimup Renewable Biomass Power Plant Supports Group is provided administration support by WA Biomass Pty Ltd which is the proponent of the Manjimup Biomass Power Station.

FOR MORE INFORMATION. CONTACT

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