

# MEDIA RELEASE



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## **Timber Communities Australia Calls on All Political Parties to Support Manjimup Biomass Plant**

Timber Communities Australia, representing 14,000 members, has called on all political parties in Western Australia to support the proposed biomass power station at Manjimup.

In a meeting in Manjimup last week, TCA said it would be writing to every political party before the next State election seeking the endorsement of all local candidates for the proposed power plant.

The Western Australian Manager for TCA, Tish Campbell, said the regular meeting in Manjimup last Friday declared its support for the biomass power station on the condition that it met all environmental requirements and urged all local candidates to endorse “this huge opportunity for the community”.

Tish Campbell said the power plant offered employment opportunities, economic benefits and would provide the opportunity for Manjimup to lead the way with environmental benefits and become the centre for renewable energy.

“With an exodus of some 500 residents from the Manjimup Shire since the inception of the state governments ‘Protecting our Old-Growth Forest’ policy in 2001, this biomass proposal offers a great opportunity to the Shire for the expansion of its forest based industry by way of real value adding to what is otherwise a useless by-product of an important part of the timber industry” Tish Campbell said in the submission.

“This in turn will increase the opportunities for permanent full time employment, traineeships for the shires’ youth, and an increase in work for trades’ people through maintenance etc, an increase in turnover for the main street businesses therefore resulting in an overall economic boost to the entire shire.

“The Manjimup Shire is in a position to achieve what it set out to do during the original timber industry restructure – attract new industry to Manjimup that would value-add and enhance the timber industry.

“With climate change being on everyone’s agenda, the Manjimup shire has the opportunity to show itself as being clean and green while contributing to the ever increasing problem of power supply” Tish Campbell said. “Manjimup has the opportunity to lead the way by becoming the centre for renewable energy”.

“Due to the plantation industry expanding throughout the south west and no current use for the residue left after harvesting operations, the biomass plant is the perfect opportunity to reduce emissions from the imminent burning of the waste products. Currently uncontrolled burning is a

necessary part of the plantation timber industry, and the Diamond Chip Mill, so to put those processes to a productive use can only be beneficial, both financially and environmentally.

“The full utilization of any renewable resource is a positive outcome for all concerned and we should all endeavour to accomplish this at every opportunity particularly including the useful disposal of what would otherwise be waste products, such as with recycling household goods which is a practice that most Australians have now embraced.

For Further Information; Tish Campbell 08 9472 3200 / 0428 949 924