

## 5.1 Introduction

The consultation strategy was designed to initiate and maintain open communication with key stakeholders and to provide a forum to proactively respond and work with key community and stakeholder groups. The consultation strategy was undertaken by representatives of SEFE.

## 5.2 Objectives

The key objectives of the consultation process were to ensure that key stakeholders:

- were appropriately informed of the proposed Project;
- were aware of the approvals process; and
- had an opportunity to ask questions and to identify areas of concern in respect to the Project.

## 5.3 Consultation Program

The following activities in relation to the proposed Power Plant occurred during 2008 and 2009.

### April 2008

- Presentation to Eden Rotary Club. 8 attendees.

### May 2008

- SEFE's General Manager Peter Mitchell and Works Manager Don Olsen presented to a full meeting of the Bega Valley Shire Council (BVSC). A small number of the public also attended this meeting. The presentation to 20 attendees covered the project scope, including:
  - plant capacity;
  - electricity generated and consumed annually and exported to the grid;
  - fuel types, quantities and sources;
  - plant and equipment;
  - plant processes;
  - condenser cooling options and preferences;
  - job creation; and
  - site location.

### August 2008

- A meeting was convened between BVSC Planning Officers and SEFE representatives to discuss options and details of the planning process.
- Local media were hosted on site and SEFE provided input into a front page news article covering the Power Plant development which appeared in the Eden Magnet.

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### September 2008

- Presentation to SEFE employees. 45 attendees.
- Presentation to NPI shareholders and NPI / Itochu executives. 30 attendees.

### October 2008

- Presentation to SEFE Board. 8 attendees.

### December 2008

- A brochure was designed and printed explaining the merits of biomass power generation. This brochure has been made available for distribution to the general public.

### February 2009

- SEFE outfitted a commercial premise in the main street of Eden. Information is presented on the native forest timber industry as well as the proposed biomass Power Plant. The shop is regularly manned to allow and encourage members of the public to discuss matters relating to the Power Plant. Information is supplied from this shop to members of the public on request.
- Written advice on the project was sent to Mike Kelly MP, Member for Eden Monaro.
- Written advice on the project was sent to Andrew Constance MP, Member for Bega.

### March 2009

- Written input on the issues to be addressed in the EA was received from Roads and Traffic Authority, Department of Defence, BVSC, Department of Primary Industries (Fisheries) (DPI), Department of Water and Energy and Department of Environment and Climate Change.
- Written advice on the project was sent to Greens MLC John Kaye in response to a local misinformation campaign.
- Presentation to the Quarterly Meeting of Bioenergy Australia, CSIRO Canberra. 75 attendees.

### April 2009

- A presentation was made to the Eden Infrastructure Group Public Forum on the effect of the project on the Eden power profile. Discussions focussed on the carbon footprint of the project, the replacement of fossil fuel generated electricity and planned changes to the emissions profile of existing mill wastes when used as fuel. 30 Attendees.

### May 2009

- A presentation was made to the Eden Rotary Tour Group. 11 Attendees.
- SEFE presented on local ABC radio. The presentation covered progress with the approvals process and the issue of EA guidelines by DoP, the two year timeframe to deliver the project and the ability for Eden to sell itself as town powered by renewable energy.
- Presentation to DPI Board including the CEO, Commissioner for Forests, regional FNSW staff and the Regional Manager. 16 attendees.

**June 2009**

- Presentation to Eden View Club. 16 attendees.

**July 2009**

- Presentation to East Gippsland Logging Contractors. 20 attendees.

**August 2009**

- SEFE representatives attended a Merimbula meeting convened by members of local organisations opposed to native forest timber harvesting and recorded a number of concerns regarding the Power Plant development. SEFE employees distributed brochures on the development and registered the central concerns raised at this meeting, which were:
  - a potential proliferation of native forest timber harvesting to fuel additional power plants;
  - climate change issues relating to native forest timber harvesting;
  - impacts of native forest timber harvesting on native fauna;
  - definitions of waste wood applied in the native forest timber industry; and
  - plantation timber use promoted to supplant timber sourced from native forests.

**September 2009**

- Written information on the project was sent to Clean Energy for Eternity.

**November 2009**

- SEFE staff manned a Bioenergy display at the Clean Energy Expo in Bega.
- Individual meeting with South East Regional Conservation Alliance (SERCA). 2 attendees.
- Presentation to Timber Industry Union leaders as part of Forest Futures Conference in Canberra. 45 attendees.
- Presentation to stakeholders including logging contractors, Clean Energy for Eternity and local fisherman.

## 5.4 Heritage Consultation

The heritage consultation process was carried out in accordance with the Draft *Guidelines for Aboriginal Cultural Impact Assessment and Community Consultation* (DEC 2005). These guidelines were prepared specifically for development applications assessed under Part 3A of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. The consultation process entailed the following:

- written notification about the project was supplied to the following bodies on 12th May 2009:
  - The Eden Local Aboriginal Land Council;
  - Native Title Services;
  - Bega Valley Shire Council;
  - NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change.

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- an advertisement was placed in the Magnet newspaper (28th May 2009) providing notification of the cultural heritage study;
- the Eden Local Aboriginal Land Council registered an interest in this project;
- representatives of the Eden Local Aboriginal Land Council participated in the site survey in June 2009; and
- the draft report was provided to the Eden Local Aboriginal Land Council for review and comment.

### 5.5 Exhibition of the EA

SEFE proposes to hold an information session in Eden during the period when the Environmental Assessment report is on public display. Company representatives will be present to answer specific queries from the broader community.

### 5.6 Issued Raised during the Consultation Program

**Table 5-1** summarises the issues raised by those consulted or those who provided feedback on the proposal and includes community and government stakeholder feedback. Issues that were not directly relevant to the proposal are excluded.

**Table 5-1 Summary of Issues Raised by Stakeholders**

Issue / Theme	Summary	Section of EA addressing concern
Project definition	Possibility of pellet production using waste heat	Section 3.1.1
	Selection criteria used to select wood-fired steam boiler rather than alternatives such as biogas, pyrolysis etc	Section 3.3.3
	Ash disposal	Section 2.6.2
	Use of excess heat	Section 3.3.3
Fuel supply	Concern that if power prices rise too high SEFE may divert export woodchips into power generation	Section 2.4.2 & 4.3.3
	Possible escalation of timber harvesting to feed bioenergy plant	Section 4.3.3
	Possibility of using bark if logs are brought in with bark on	Section 2.4.2
	Value of having 80% waste on site at SEFE	Section 3.3.2
	Will logging residues be required to provide sufficient fuel	Section 2.4.2 & 4.3.3
Noise	Noise and vibration study required	Chapter 12
	Potential noise impacts on Edrom Lodge	Chapter 12
Marine Waters	Assessment of impacts from disposal of cooling water	Chapter 6
	Potential impacts of sea level rise and storm surge	Chapter 7
	Potential impacts on aquaculture and recreational activities	Section 8.4.4

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Issue / Theme	Summary	Section of EA addressing concern
Marine Ecology	Marine survey required	Chapter 8
	Potential impacts on threatened species	Chapter 8
	Use of Cu anodes for anti-fouling and possible contamination of mussel farms in Twofold Bay	Chapter 8
	Description of proposed works	Section 2.3.2
	Marine ecological impact assessment required	Chapter 8
	Development of measures to mitigate impacts	Section 8-6
Terrestrial ecology	Potential impacts on threatened species	Chapter 9
Fresh water	Sustainability of existing freshwater supply	Section 2.3.1
	Storm water management	Section 2.6.1
Air quality	Air quality assessment required	Chapter 10
	Smoke from flue stack and emissions	Chapter 10
	Effect of particulate emissions on the marine environment	Chapter 10
	Possibility of dioxin emissions from flu stack	Chapter 10
Landuse	Location of the project in relation to Defence "safeguarding zones"	Section 17.2
Aboriginal heritage	Potential impacts on Aboriginal heritage	Chapter 15
Greenhouse gas	Potential impacts of greenhouse gas emissions	Chapter 11