



**WA FOREST ALLIANCE**

## **WA Joins International Day of Action on Big Biomass**

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WA Forest Alliance, the Nannas for Native Forests and local residents will come together to expose a major looming threat to climate and forests today as a part of the International Day of Action on Big Biomass.

The group is meeting in Pemberton at 11:30am and travelling to a nearby forest. Images and vision will be available early afternoon, and the group can be contacted for further information and comment on the number below.

“Proponents of biomass claim that it is a carbon-neutral and climate friendly source of energy. But we know that biomass from native forests is actually a looming climate and biodiversity disaster,” said Jess Beckerling, convener of WA Forest Alliance.

“Biomass emits more carbon per unit of energy generated than coal, and far from being a clean, green alternative fuel source, it also creates perverse incentives for forests to be logged and burned.

“Here in WA, we have recently had a major breakthrough on logging policy, but thinning proposals are currently being developed for immature regrowth and minesite rehabilitation. As thinning proponents look for markets to cover costs of the proposed programs, biomass is rearing its ugly head again.

“We have been down this road in WA before, when the woodchipping industry came to town and promised they’d only use ‘waste’ from logging operations. It turned out 85% of the karri sold each year was considered ‘waste’ and massive areas of karri forest were clear-felled to feed the insatiable wood chipping beast. We must not and will not allow further perverse incentives to influence what happens in our forests.

“Biomass is not a mainstream energy source in Australia, but the Federal Government is currently developing a ‘bioenergy roadmap’. There is absolutely no role for native forest biomass in a clean energy future. We need to stop burning carbon-based fuels and protect native forests for climate and biodiversity,” said Ms Beckerling.

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