



Media Release 24 May 2007

FOSSIL fuels and the Environment – just don't mix

Wood heating is a sustainable source of heating for your home and is environmentally responsible.

The Australian Government are spending millions of dollars on the Mandatory Renewable Energy Target (MRET), a National program that is designed to encourage the continual transition away from fossil fuels to renewable energy, helping to address the issues of climate change and provide Australians with a stable and secure energy supply for the future.

¹A 2004 study by Dr John Todd reveals that of the 18,000GWh of renewable energy firewood provides annually, 65% or 11,500GWh ends up as useful heat in Australian homes. The goal set for the MRET is to generate 9,500GWh of renewable electricity annually by 2010.

So firewood is now providing the residential sector with more energy than the MRET will deliver.

The study also highlights the dramatic increase in greenhouse emission just one household would make to the environment by switching from wood heating to another fuel type.

Replacement fuel type -	Extra carbon dioxide emitted into the environment for each household that switches from wood to another form of heating
Natural Gas	2.7 tonnes per year extra CO ₂
LPG	3.2 tonnes per year extra CO ₂
Electricity	10.6 tonnes per year extra CO ₂
Electric heat pump	5.3 tonnes per year extra CO ₂

¹Comparison of Residential Heating Costs and Greenhouse Gas Emissions for Firewood, Gas and Electricity by Dr. John Todd, June 2005

²Speeches: National Association of Forest Industries Annual Conference 2007

² Senator The Hon Eric Abetz recently stated “by 2010, it is estimated that plantations established since 1990 will offset some 21 million tonnes of Australia’s total carbon dioxide emissions per year. Australia’s plantation and commercial forests are an enormous carbon sink, removing a net 43.7 million tonnes of carbon dioxide from the air in 2004. This is equivalent to around 8% of Australia’s annual carbon dioxide emissions. In France, local governments are actually encouraging citizens to use wood to heat their homes for exactly this reason – it is environmentally responsible and it is carbon neutral.”

By using wood as a sustainable source to heat your home you are not only doing something good for the environment but you are doing it without contributing to global warming.

The wood heating industry represents the only economical form of home heating which uses renewable energy. There are clear benefits relating to the sustained production and use of wood, as atmospheric increases of carbon are greatly reduced relative to fossil fuels like gas and coal.

- END -

¹Comparison of Residential Heating Costs and Greenhouse Gas Emissions for Firewood, Gas and Electricity by Dr. John Todd, June 2005

²Speeches: National Association of Forest Industries Annual Conference 2007