

JAPANS BIGGEST PAPER MANUFACTURER TAKES ON FOREST ACTIVIST

One of the world's biggest pulp and paper manufacturers has launched a David and Goliath action against a far south coast conservationist.

Japans biggest paper producer, Nippon Paper Industries has lodged a complaint with the Geneva based World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) against forest campaigner, Harriett Swift, demanding that she surrender an internet domain name that the company believes should belong to it.

Ms Swift has owned the domain name nipponpaper.net since March 2009 and uses it to run a website drawing attention to Nippon Papers environmental record.

"I have described the company as one of Australia's most notorious woodchippers and apparently they object to that."

"I am more than happy to defend that statement," she says.

"Information that Nippon Paper has lodged in support of its complaint includes public relations material about the company's operations around the world, including in Australia."

"Significantly there is no mention of the Eden woodchip mill, of which Nippon Paper is the majority shareholder."

The Eden chipmill exports over a million tonnes of native forest woodchips a year and is responsible for the destruction of more than 14,000 hectares of native forest every year in south east NSW and East Gippsland.

Nippon expanded its Australian operations in 2009 when it bought the Maryvale and Shoalhaven mills from Australian Paper.

"While SEFE has, for now, avoided the dire financial fate of the Tasmanian woodchipping industry, it is now making less than half the profit from the same level of exports it made 3 years ago."

"I will not be intimidated by this action by Nippon Paper and I fully intend to continue campaigning against its destruction of the forests and the animals for as long as Governments continue to allow woodchipping of our native forests," she says.

Contact: Harriett Swift 0414908997

3rd July 2011

Background information:

- Nippon Paper Industries is the biggest woodchipper and paper manufacturer in Australia, owning the Eden woodchip mill and Australian Paper mills in Maryvale (Vic) and Shoalhaven (NSW).
- My defence lodged with the Geneva based World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) is at:
<http://www.nipponpaper.net/WIPO%20complaint.htm>
- Case Details for WIPO Case D2011-0832 at:
http://www.wipo.int/amc/en/domains/search/case.jsp?case_id=20857

- I bought the domain name nipponpaper.net in March 2009 and use it to run a small website <http://www.nipponpaper.net/> drawing attention to Nippon Papers environmental record.
- Information that Nippon Paper has lodged in support of its complaint includes public relations material about the companys operations around the world, including in Australia, but significantly omits any mention of the Eden woodchip mill, of which Nippon Paper is the majority shareholder.
- On 22nd June 2011, WIPO appointed Hong Kong based Gabriela Kennedy as the panel to determine the case. Her judgment can be expected within 14 days.