



Australian Company Converting Environmental Waste and Invasive Weeds into Renewable Fuel for the Low Emissions Japanese Electricity Market.

The Australian biomass manufacturer, SEFAAS Pty Ltd, is rapidly establishing itself as a major supplier of renewable biomass pellets to the growing Japanese low emission electricity and industrial sectors.

Biomass pellets are a renewable, sustainable, low carbon solid fuel for use in thermal power stations as an alternative to coal. On a per tonne basis, biomass pellets produce around 85% of the energy of coal with less than 5% of the emissions. The SEFAAS biomass pellets will be produced from sustainably sourced forestry waste and through harvesting two major environmental woody weeds; Prickly Acacia and Mesquite.

Managing Director of SEFAAS, Mr Phillip Jarratt has said “By utilising forestry waste and woody weeds sourced from across Queensland, SEFAAS has secured over 200 million tonnes of biomass feedstock. That is enough supply to sustain 100 years of production at initial levels.”

“The Australian Forestry Industry has been searching for a solution to the waste material created in timber production. This waste presents a huge wildfire threat to the forests and the local communities that support the industry. The waste also harbours feral pests such as cats and foxes that prey on the unique Australian wildlife.” Mr Jarratt said. “Working with SEFAAS allows the Forestry Industry to address these environmental concerns.”

SEFAAS has identified three production sites spread across Queensland from Townsville in the north to Brisbane in the south. Each facility is located near a major Port terminal with arterial road and rail access, to facilitate the seamless movement of product from the field to the destination market.

“Geographically spreading sites across the State gives greater security of supply and certainty of production by removing many risks that comes from a single facility.” Mr Jarratt said.

“Each of the sites will have an annual production capacity of 500,000 tonnes of biomass pellets. Stage 2 of development will see the Brisbane facility double production capacity to 1 million tonnes per year, allowing SEFAAS to produce 2 million tonnes in total per year and abating tens of millions of tonnes of CO2 annually.”

It is hoped that with the establishment of a large-scale domestic biomass manufacturing industry, Australian electricity producers will look to follow the lead of other countries such as Japan and Europe in reducing greenhouse emissions through blending biomass with coal or fully substituting biomass for coal.

SEFAAS has received sustained support from the Australian Government and the Queensland State Government. SEFAAS has also received enthusiastic support from numerous Local Government Authorities keen to secure the jobs to be generated in their towns.

According to Country Head and Chief SEFAAS Representative in Japan, Mr Shozo Horii, local Trade and Investment Queensland support has been very effective. "The Commissioner in Japan, Mr Tak Adachi, his Tokyo office as well as a number of staff in the Head Office in Brisbane, have all been instrumental in building strong relationships between SEFAAS and a number of prominent Japanese power stations" Mr Horii said.

"This strong support from all levels of Australian government has helped SEFAAS to develop Term Sheets, Non-Disclosure Agreements and Memorandums of Understanding with multiple power stations in Japan, as well as with renewable power companies in Europe and Korea."

"Japanese society has an international reputation of demanding environmentally friendly, economically sustainable and socially responsible products of the highest quality, with no tolerance for disruptions to supply. Australian industry has the reputation of reliably supplying products of the highest standard, with robust tracing and accountability systems in place" Mr Horii said "giving the Australian industry some competitive advantage over competitors who produce a cheaper product of an inferior quality and much less reliable."

Australian Government Senator for Queensland, Susan McDonald, is an enthusiastic supporter of the eradication of woody weeds Prickly Acacia and Mesquite. Both of these have been classified as Weeds of National Significance by the Australian Government and have taken over millions of hectares of native grassland.

Senator McDonald "welcomes SEFAAS utilising invasive weeds to produce a sustainable alternate fuel, to help reduction of CO2 emissions and enable the restoration of over 500,000 hectares of the Mitchell Grass Downs to its natural state helping to secure a future for Queensland agriculture and the unique Australian ecosystem."

"The sustained large-scale removal of the heaviest infested areas of Prickly Acacia will return significant environmental and economic benefits to the pastoral areas of Northern Australia."

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