

JAPAN'S BIGGEST PAPER COMPANY FAILS TO SILENCE FOREST CAMPAIGNER

One of the world's biggest paper manufacturers has failed in its bid to shut down a website criticising its role in the destruction of Australia's forests.

Nippon Paper Industries, which owns the Eden woodchip mill lodged a complaint with the Geneva based World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) against far south coast forest campaigner, Harriett Swift over her use of the domain name nipponpaper.net.

Ms Swift, who registered the domain name in March 2009, has used the site to draw attention to Nippon Paper's role in the destruction of Australia's forests.

"I referred to Nippon Paper as one of Australia's most notorious woodchippers and they didn't like that," she said.

In its judgement, the WIPO panel said that it is "of the opinion that the Respondent genuinely believes in the criticisms that she is displaying on the Website, and that the Respondent is not operating the Website for any dishonest purposes."

Ms Swift said that it is very satisfying that her honesty in operating the website had been established because one of the chipmill managers "had made some very unpleasant personal attacks on me over it."

"This judgement clearly proves that he is wrong and I will be asking for an apology," she said.

Ms Swift said that Nippon Paper had first contacted her about the domain name after she had registered on the company's website as a shareholder.

"I received a rather rude message from them simply demanding that I hand it over; they did not even offer to reimburse my costs in registering the name," she said.

"I believe this action by Nippon Paper has shown its true colours as a multinational bully. I felt that I owed it to our forests and the wildlife to stand up for them and refuse to be intimidated. 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.

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 about 5,000 hectares in East Gippsland. Eden was Australia's first export woodchip mill and has been highly controversial and a target of conservationists for over 40 years.

Contact: Harriett Swift 12 July 2011

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