

# Biomass Energy in Horticulture

by: Sohum Gandhi



enriva

[www.enriva.com.au](http://www.enriva.com.au)

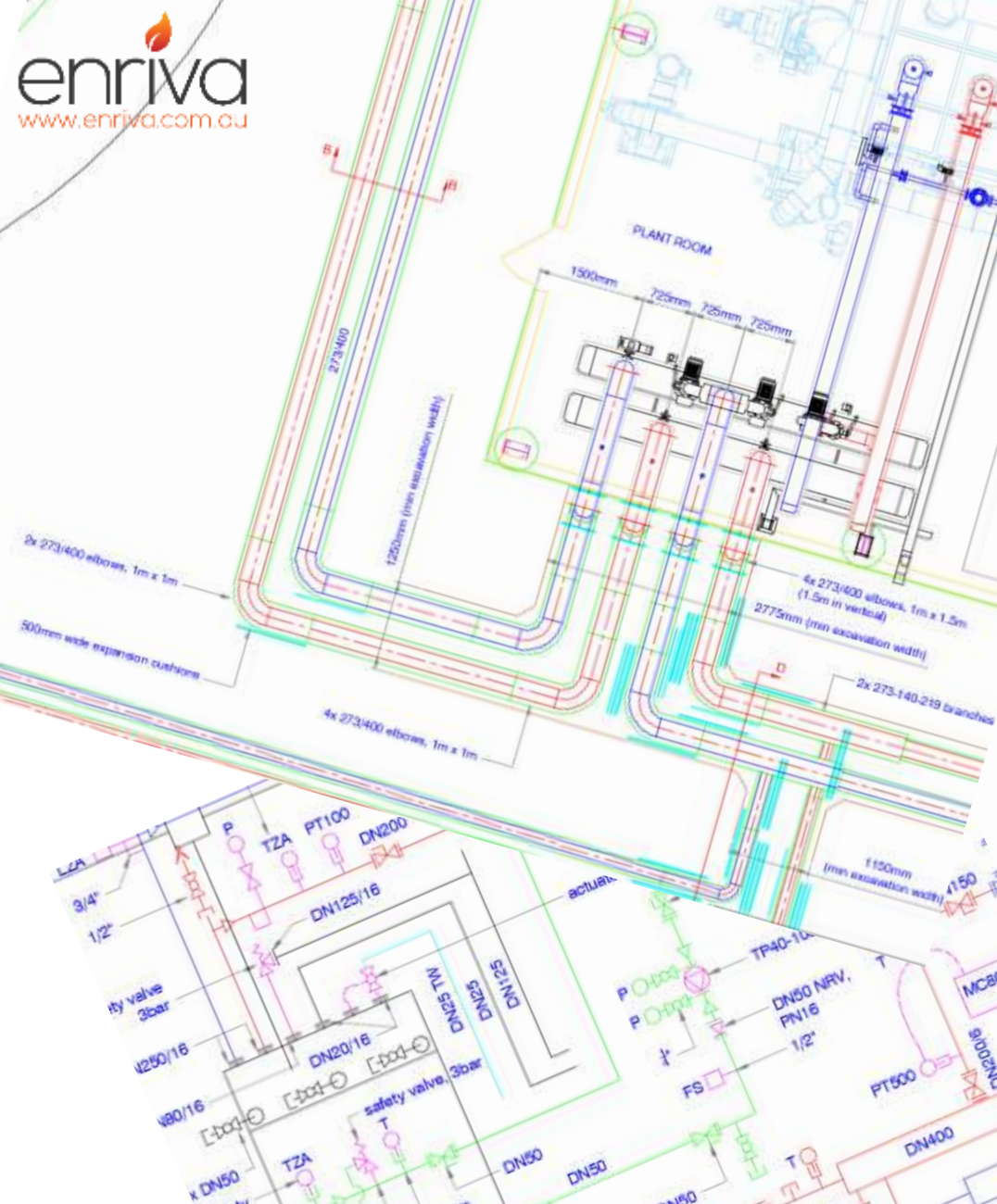
Energy | Engineering | Consulting





## About Enriva

- 18+ years experience in the protected cropping industry
- Energy systems, gas and biomass for clients in AUS/NZ
- Offsetting 100's of thousands of tonnes CO2 emission
- Other services, consulting, planning, engineering





BIOMASS



... the new coal



PRACTICAL  
**HYDROPONICS & GREENHOUSES**  
Commercial Growers' Magazine  
www.hydroponics.com.au



Video: Turn-key bioenergy implementation





## WHY BIOMASS ?

### Photosynthesis (The Renewability)

- Plant matter high in carbon
- Carbon absorbed from air through stomata, 400PPM
- Photosynthesis, sunlight driving the conversion of water and CO<sub>2</sub> into carbohydrates and oxygen



### Energy Requirement

- Only one of many questions
- Crop dependent (ie. setpoint)
- Climate dependent (ie. temp profile)
- Technology dependent, screens, structure has a significant impact
- Peak load supply vs. load averaging
- MCR vs. nominal rating
- Economy of peak load supplementation





### More Considerations

- Heating expenditure
- Fuel and equipment selection
- Running costs and CO2 availability
- Informed analysis
- Profitability and sustainability



## **THREE ENRIVA PROJECTS**

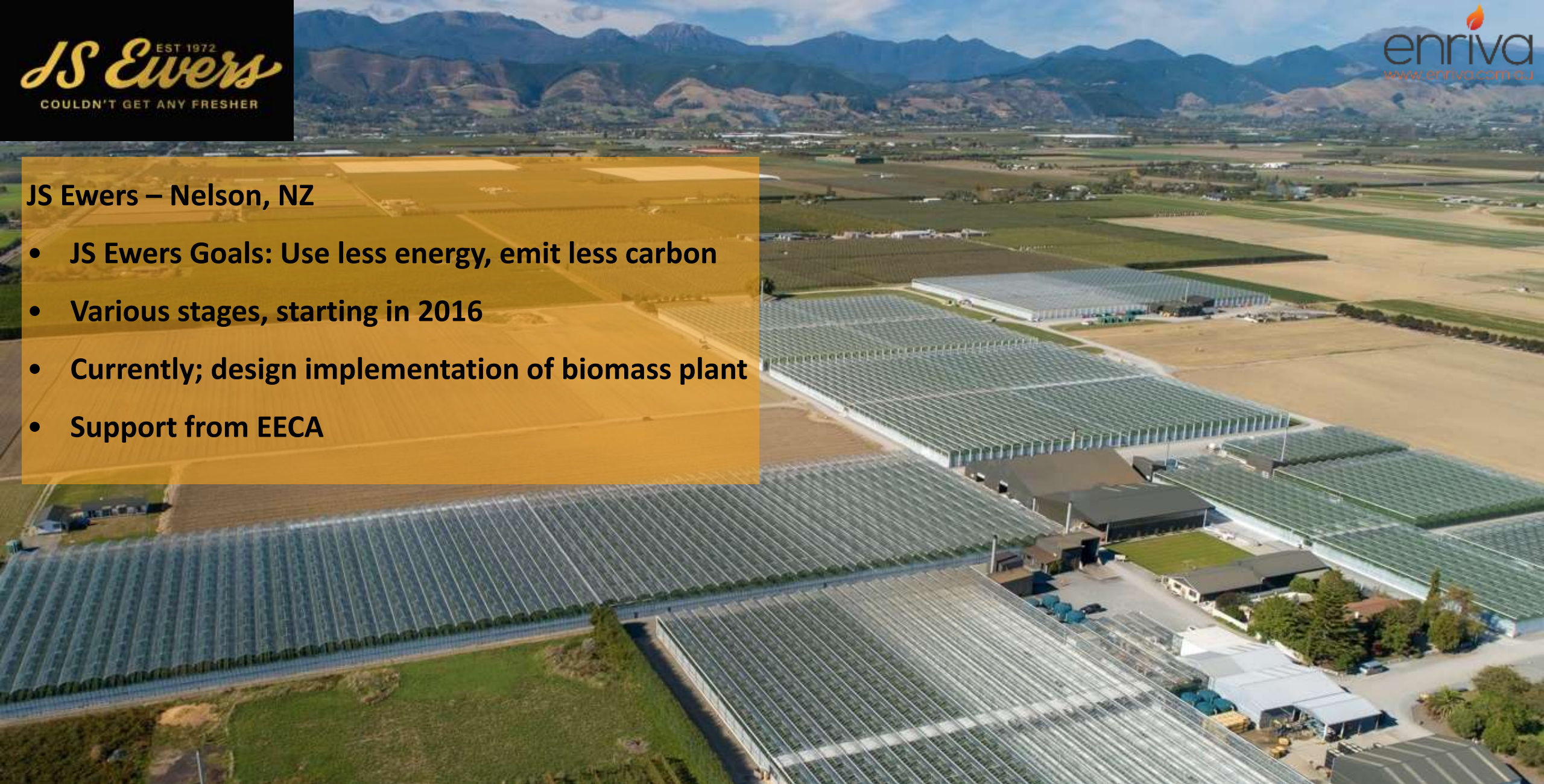
- 1. JS Ewers, Nelson NZ**
- 2. Van Wyk Flowers, Lyndhurst AUS**
- 3. Chislett Farms, Kenly AUS**





## JS Ewers – Nelson, NZ

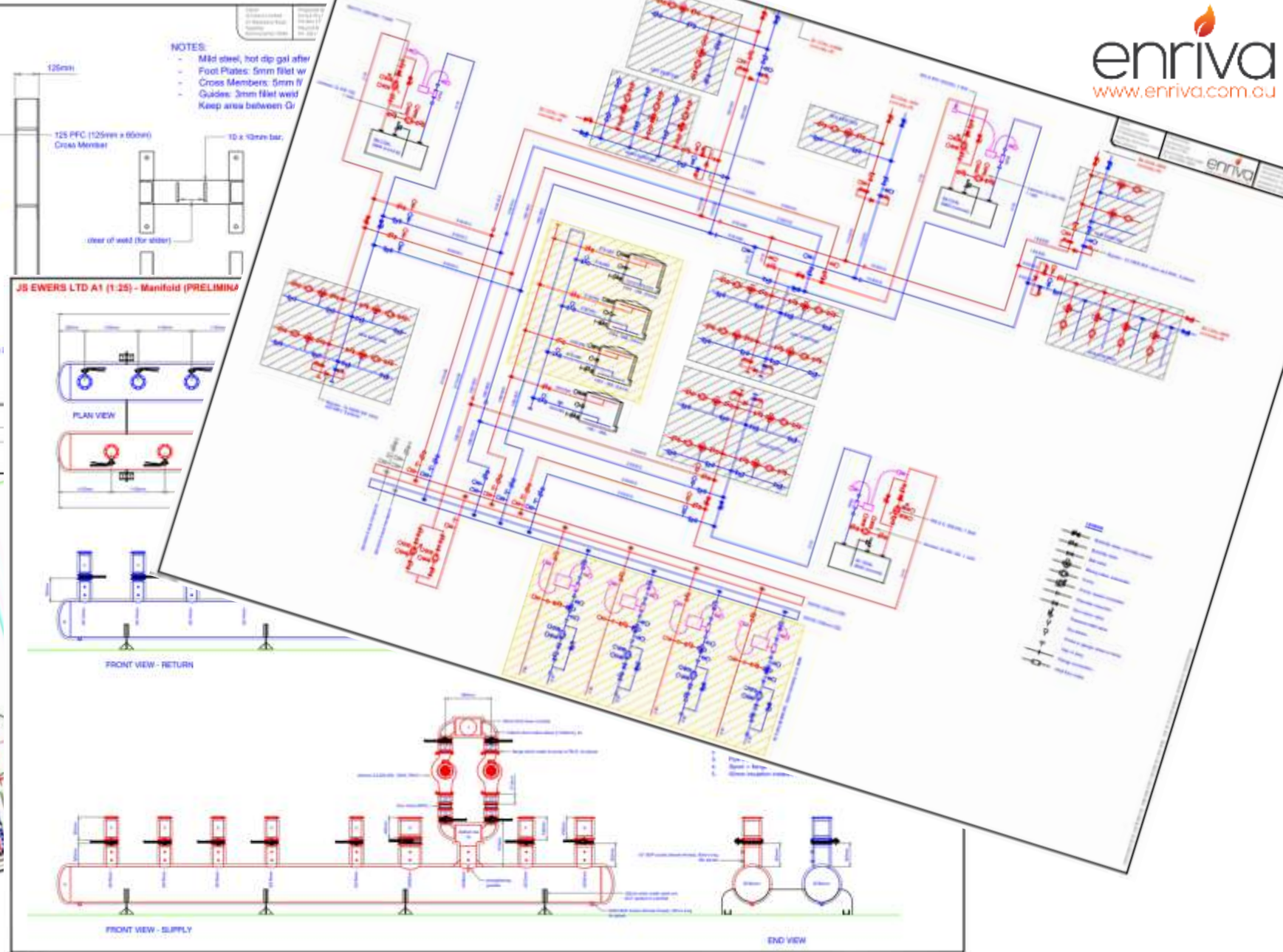
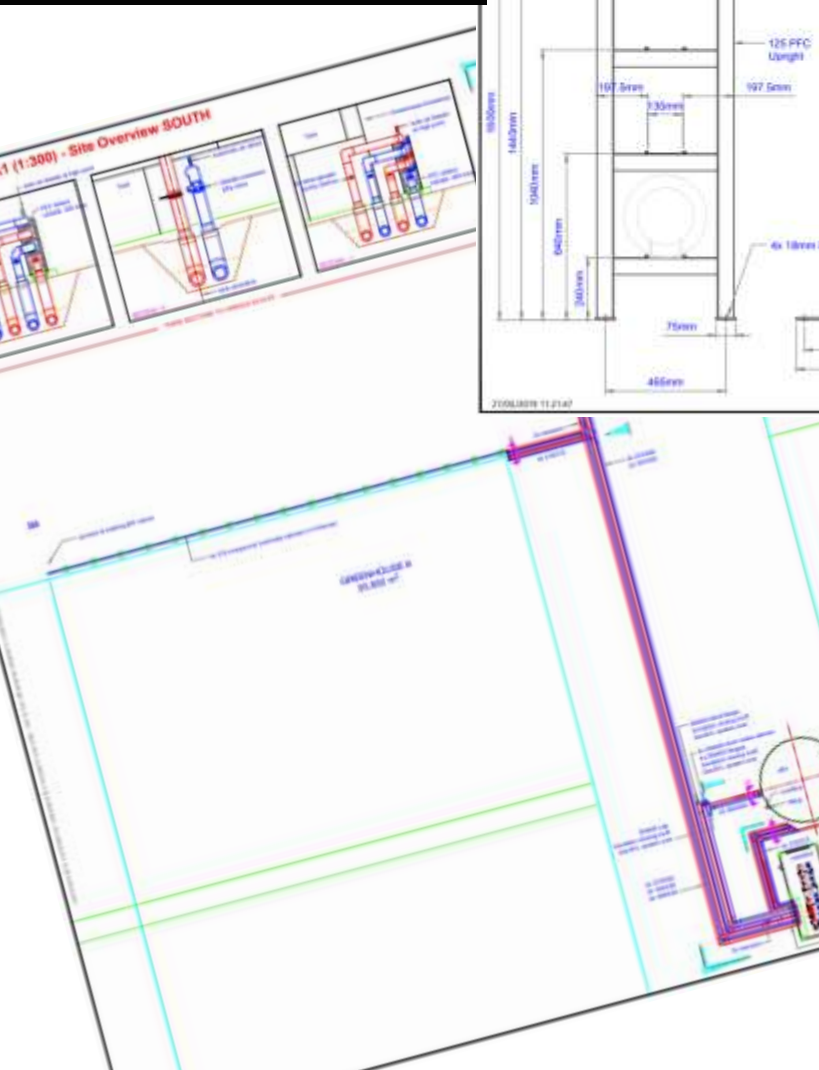
- JS Ewers Goals: Use less energy, emit less carbon
- Various stages, starting in 2016
- Currently; design implementation of biomass plant
- Support from EECA











































## Outcomes (thus far)

- Site integrated, ready for centralised biomass plant
- 5 coal plants decommissioned
- 20% annual energy reduction
- By late 2022 final coal plant to be shut down and system to be 100% carbon neutral





## Van Wyk Flowers – Lyndhurst, Australia



**Long standing family  
business just outside of  
Melbourne**







**A wholesale grower  
Specialising in many flower varieties**



**Grown in heated greenhouse environments for  
premium year round production**







**2.5x increase in natural gas price**

**Replaced old technology**

**Invested in modern, renewable biomass plant**

**Kept business sustainable**







## Plant Room Building

**Required custom design**

**With under floor recesses**

**With large concrete fuel  
bunker for biomass storage**

**Live floor and sub surface  
structures**







**Completion of concrete works in plant room**  
**Steel anchors tied into the concrete,**  
**imperative for the live floor loads**







**Heat store foundation;  
earthworks,  
blinding concrete,  
the final pour**







**2ML heat store;  
part of thermal design,  
load buffering,  
peak power delivery**







**Hydraulics;**

**Plant Room**

**Pumps**

**Piping**

**Load Management**

**Optimised energy  
delivery**







## Plant Install;

Advanced biomass plant

Emissions control system

Fuel handling system





**Completed plant install**







## Outcomes:

**Turned off gas**

**Under 4 year payback by using waste biomass**

**Offsets 60,000 tonnes carbon emissions**









**BIOHOUSE PROJECT - Design, pre-build,  
disassembled, shipped, erected and  
commissioned**



**Nursery on the Murray, a long standing  
family business located on the Victorian side  
of the Murray River**

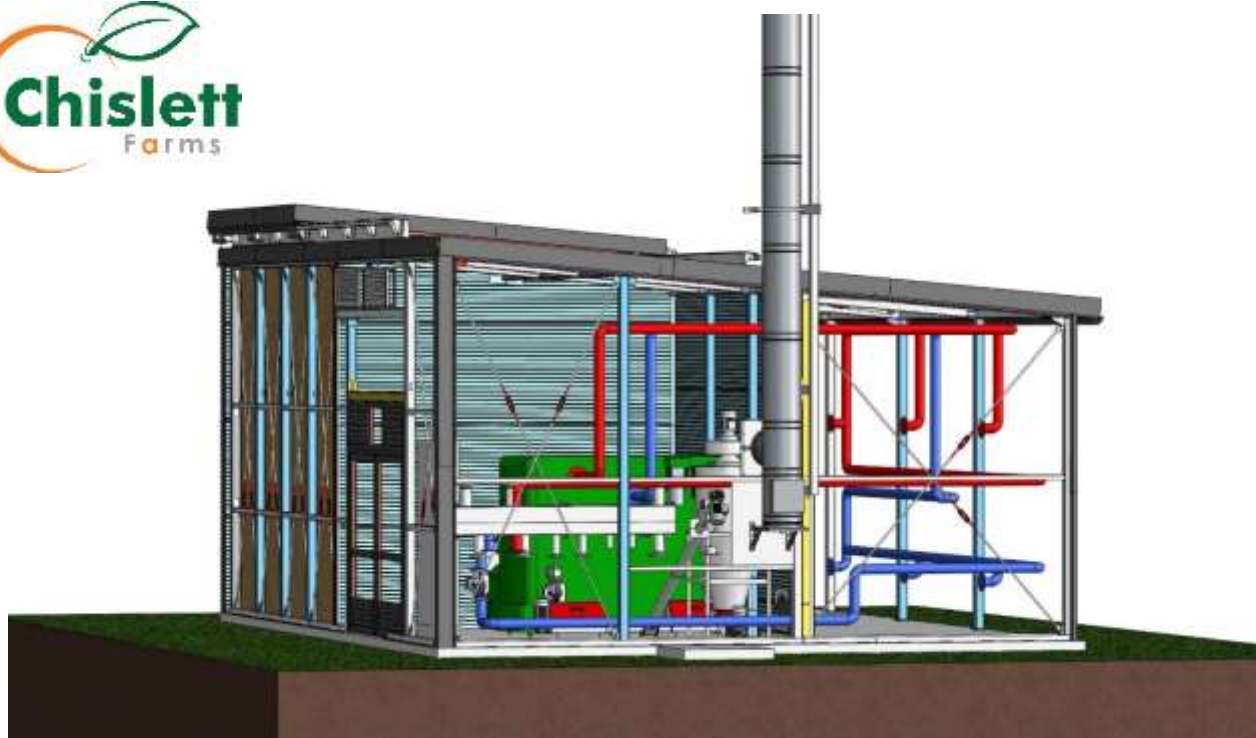




**High quality food and plant production for the  
wholesale market**







**BIOHOUSE – All aspects are first designed and CAD modelled in 3D including the building, the mechanical plant, hydraulics, fuel storage and handling**







**PRE-ASSEMBLY – Constructed in European  
facility prior to shipping**







**SITE PREPARATION – The concrete floor is prepared at client site in Australia**







**INTERNALS – Greenhouse hydraulics and bench heating elements are installed**







**TRANSPORT – unassembled, packed, containerised,  
delivered and unloaded.**

**Europe to Australia. Factory to Farm**







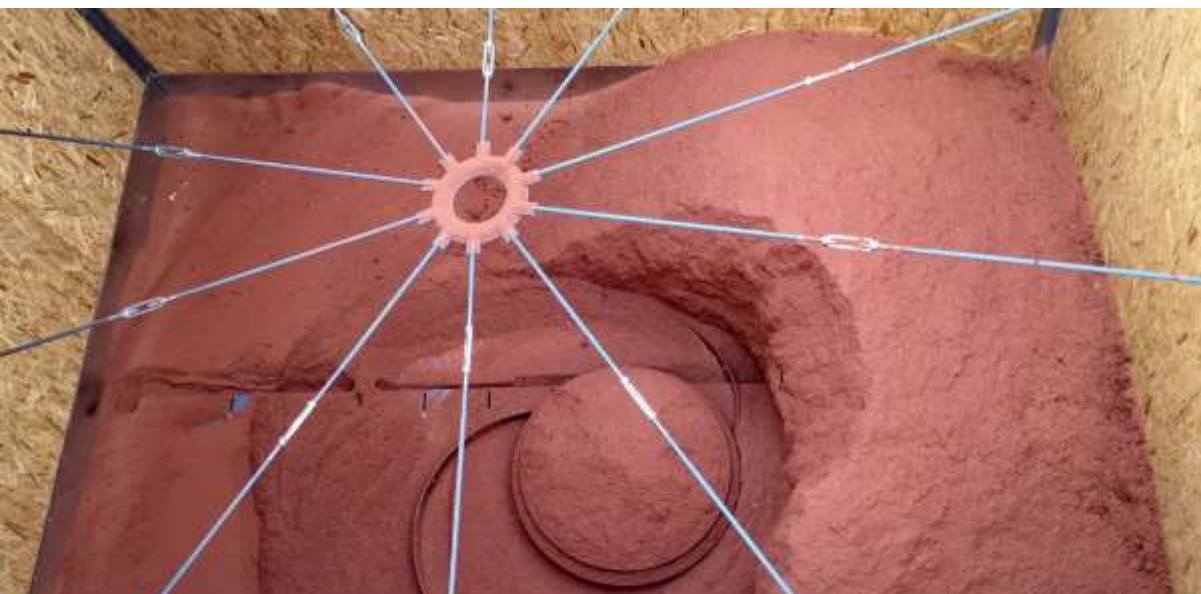
**INSTALLATION – the crew arrive and quickly re-construct the BIOHOUSE**







**FUEL LOADING – Automatic roof hatch allows easy loading into fuel silo**







**HANDOVER– Tuning, client training, final commissioning, remote monitoring, and on going surveillance via 24hr internet link**









**Project completed:**

**Small packaged biomass plant (<500kW)**

**Delivered integrated in building, hydraulics, electrical, fuel store, heat store**

