

'**Scientist Walter Jehne** spoke to a packed house at a far south coast SERCA Forum on the first of August, on the burning issue – forests, woodchipping and climate.

“Reducing CO2 emissions from fossil fuels under the proposed CPRS would not now be adequate to avert dangerous climate change.

We are 20 years too late to have any chance of avoiding dangerous climate impacts by relying on any future level of CO2 emission reduction.

Instead we need to urgently cool regions and the planet to offset the now locked in CO2 increases and their greenhouse warming effects.

We need to urgently bio-sequester large quantities of CO2 to draw down past CO2 emissions from the atmosphere and re-secure a safe climate.

We need to, and can, transition to a higher quality but lower carbon industrial ecology, safely, naturally and equitably via available and profitable efficiencies.

"Unlike Barrack Obama's scheme, proposed for the USA, Australia's current CPRS ignores the critical importance of this drawing down of carbon; not just cutting future emissions,"

Fortunately we can still meet this imperative; safely, naturally and even profitably if we are prepared to recognize the critical roles that forests have and must play in balancing global hydrological and carbon cycles and through that the global heat balance and climates.

If we are prepared to recognize the extent to which we have impaired these critical heat balances by deforestation and land degradation and restore our forests and their essential hydrological cooling, rainfall enhancement and carbon bio-sequestration functions.

Our forests are our habitat and now our last chance to avoid dangerous climate meltdown.

They are far too valuable to lay waste for low value woodchips or bio-energy exploitation.

Managed effectively they need to serve as a key basis for our safe future climate alongside high value timber based industries and sustainable regional communities and economies.

However our first priority must be to secure a safe climate: to reverse

the aridification of southern Australia and the massive clearing and degradation of our forests and soils that have contributed to it.

We must and can do it by valuing and restoring our forests for the key rain making, water retention and carbon bio-sequestration ecosystems that they are, along with reforesting farming landscapes and improving soil carbon."

Walter Jehne is an ex CSIRO and Government scientist, now advising organizations on the imperatives of land and water restoration. He was interviewed on local ABC on July 31.

For further information contact

SERCA spokesperson;

Prue Acton

02-64945144