

SUBMISSION TO CARBON POLLUTION REDUCTION SCHEME - GREEN PAPER

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From a climate change perspective many things happen when native forests are logged:

- 1) Substantial CO₂ is released
- 2) Carbon stores in trees are lost.
- 3) Biodiversity is changed
- 4) Forest structure is changed
- 5) Forest resilience and health are undermined
- 6) Wildlife - part of the climate change story - is threatened
- 7) Habitat is lost - understorey, ground plants and trees are lost.
- 8) Habitat is changed.

In NSW, native forest logging runs at a loss - as stated by the NSW Minister for DPI - Ian Macdonald - in Parliament on 25 June 2008.

Why make losses and contribute to climate change by logging?

Native Forests Income Scheme - from the ETS

I ask that native forests be given a share of the income from any Emissions Trading Scheme. In this way they are included in the Scheme but they are not traded. This prevents the price of carbon credits from falling to a very low level and hence does not disadvantage industry.

These Native Forests include:

- a) Logged Native Forests
- b) Native Forests in National Parks
- c) Privately held Native Forests.

For each of these 3 sectors a tranche of money from the ETS is set aside - based on the forest area, CO₂ uptake and existing carbon stores. In this way Forestry Agencies have an incentive to stop Native Forest logging - in particular pulplogging - and use plantations. They will gain an income from not logging.

If Native Forests are not given an income stream from the ETS there will be no incentive for Forestry Agencies to stop logging - as many do unsustainably, especially since the drought. Yields per hectare have fallen considerably - by 25%-35%. Example, in the Eden RFA region yields have fallen from 120 tonnes/ha to 75 from 1999/00 to 06/07. The percentage of native forests logged - as a percent of the net harvestable area - is around 5%,. This means the forest will be logged in 20 years. The forest never gets to attain its full potential as a mechanism to uptake and store CO₂.

There are substantial releases of CO2 caused by logging. This has been confirmed by the research of eminent scientists and academics. Moreover, large stores of Carbon are lost. Mature native forests contain many times the stores of carbon than regrowth forests.

If a large mature tree is cut down for a sawlog and 10 young trees spring up in its place, will the 10 young trees breathe in as much CO2 as the large old tree? The 10 small ones would not even be equal to one branch of the old tree. In 15 years time they get cut down again anyway and are carted off to the chipmill for pulp. They never get a chance to get near the CO2 uptake the old tree had - even if each individual leaf on the young trees takes in more CO2 than each individual leaf on the old tree.

In NSW - in the Eden and South-Coast Southern regions, about 80% of trees cut down are for pulp - to go the chipmill. In Eden it's over 90% - and losses are made. So what is the point? - the point is money is lost to make a contribution to climate change, and what's the point of that?

Give income from the ETS to Native Forests - give Forestry Agencies and private landholders an incentive to stop logging Native Forests and help stop climate change. For National Parks, there is a reward for their carbon stores and CO2 uptake. Most importantly, help Native Forests - the most valuable natural asset in Australia - stay healthy and in one piece.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "T. Digwood". The letters are cursive and somewhat slanted to the right.

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