



## **think change. save forests & cut emissions NOW!**

Submission on the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme Green Paper (July-08)

To: *Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd; Treasurer, Wayne Swan; Minister for Climate Change, Penny Wong*

Thank you for this opportunity to be heard on decisions you are making on behalf of future generations.

### **1. Why we need to act – both locally & globally**

Congratulations firstly on the leadership shown by Australia in Bali. The ETS outlined in this Green Paper also seems an inevitable first step towards managing several of the most polluting industries in Australia.

But we note your recognition that *'these schemes'* are only *'part of global leadership on climate change.'* We therefore need urgent **policy action** on other significant carbon sinks and emissions *outside the ETS.*

Ethics has been defined as *'obedience to the un-enforceable'*. As you know, Kyoto-based protocols ignore carbon in native forests. Common sense and an ANU 'Green Carbon' scientific report (Aug-08) has begun addressing REDD (*"reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation"*) as part of the global *'Bali Action Plan'* - to reduce emissions *quickly and cost-effectively.* Re-forestation cannot compensate. Trees up to hundreds-year-old will be logged-out as *'waste'* by 2015 under current RFAs in three States. Justice delayed is carbon, water and natural heritage biodiversity lost. *Are we being hypocritical telling PNG and other countries to stop logging their native forests whilst we keep wood-chipping our own?*

### **2. How we should act**

Bi-partisan leadership by Premiers' in QLD and WA settled their *'Forest Wars'* last century. Today over 80% of Australia's timber is supplied from our under-utilised plantations. Unfortunately over 80% of Native Forest logs are now being wastefully wood-chipped in Tasmania, Gippsland and Eden-Monaro. **Carbon accounting** is urgently needed in these regions (estimated 4 Million tonnes of wood-chips p.a.). Dr. Mike Kelly could be an ideal local member to convene development of a new pilot socio/economic **21<sup>st</sup> Century 'Regional Vision'** in co-operation with NSW, Councils and CMA/NRM regional bodies. NSW manage their native forests at a loss and should be receptive to *'industry adjustment'*. Gippsland feeds the same wood-chip mill at Eden. *Could we negotiate a 'Win/Win' deal in Tasmania before 2010?*

### **3. Reducing carbon pollution**

*Was Shadow Minister Hunt right to describe avoidable de-forestation overseas as 'low-hanging fruit'?*

### **4. Support for households & business**

*Could reducing losses from avoidable de-forestation help offset our more-costly emissions up to 2020?*

### **5. Adapting to climate change**

*Is investment in forest carbon science wasted if Government itself refuses to adapt to climate change?*

### **6. Acting responsibly, in our nations long-term interests**

State-Forest **Land-Use-Change** is one short-term opportunity - *which I look forward to helping facilitate.*

*Yours Sincerely*

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