



Submission on reducing emissions from State Forests (2010-2020)

This submission addresses one immediate opportunity (and international obligation) for our State Forest Agencies alone to reduce our emissions by around 5% by 2020, and it relates directly to your Committee's terms of reference.

Today's Australians want to do all we can to cost-effectively reduce emissions by 2020, irrespective of CPRS content. **Whilst telling us we all need to accept change in our homes, change in our businesses, and change on our farms, why are Australian Governments still resisting 'Adaptive Management' change in our State-owned native forests?**

Six key science-based messages from ANU and other global experts meeting in Copenhagen on 12th March '09 have been conveyed to governments via http://climatecongress.ku.dk/newsroom/congress_key_messages/, including:

Key Message 5: Inaction is Inexcusable

'There is no excuse for inaction. We already have many tools and approaches - economic, technological, behavioral, management - to deal effectively with the challenge. But they must be vigorously and widely implemented to achieve the societal transformation required to decarbonise economies. A wide range of benefits will flow from a concerted effort to alter our energy economy now, including sustainable energy job growth, reductions in the health and economic costs of climate change, and the restoration of ecosystems and revitalization of ecosystem services.'

Key Message 6: Meeting the Challenge

'To achieve the societal transformation required to meet the climate change challenge, we must overcome a number of significant constraints and seize critical opportunities. These include reducing inertia in social and economic systems; building on a growing public desire for governments to act on climate change; removing implicit and explicit subsidies; reducing the influence of vested interests that increase emissions and reduce resilience; enabling the shifts from ineffective governance and weak institutions to innovative leadership in government, the private sector and civil society; and engaging society in the transition to norms and practices that foster sustainability.'

Today's deadline limits detail, but **21st Century Native Forest Forums** planned for 2010 will quantify for **2010-2020**:

1. **Old Growth Carbon Sinks** *Trees over 100 years old: Saved or over 90% spent logging/woodchipping?*
2. **Native Forest Wood Products** *Carbon resilience in woodchips, etc (eg.1% in Wooden Bowls & Furniture)*
3. **Regrowth Rates** *Regrowth carbon accounting – starting in State-owned Native Forests*
4. **Plantations** *Today's ample timber/wood-product supply, projections & carbon credits*
5. **Bushfire Management** *Fact-based plans referencing latest reports and moisture in older forests*
6. **Water Catchments** *Run-off rates graphed by forest age, type & region; costed at market rates*
7. **Biodiversity** *Valued as per 'Caring for our Country', Heritage and BioBanking programs*
8. **Jobs & Just Transitions** *Regional jobs in tourism and sustainable land-use management of above*
9. **Government Policy** *Forum for major parties to promote **21st Century Native Forest Policies***

Australians can ride a **lucky 'perfect storm'**. Just as our State Foresters (whose only source of revenue is logging) enter their last decade of wood-chipping their last old-growth tree supply, the UN's IPCC scientists (including our own best from ANU) are measuring substantial carbon emissions savings 2010-2020 if we stop native forest 'degradation'. Indonesia, PNG, Australia and few other counties share this opportunity and awesome responsibility. Photos, satellite data and initial on-ground carbon accounting research surveys in State-owned Forests are proving the facts many know intuitively. Vested interests adopting Tobacco-Industry tactics must not be allowed to hijack this last opportunity. *State Governments are woodchipping our native forests and the Australian Government controls woodchip exports.*

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www.nature.net.au ... **think change. save forests & cut CO² emissions now!**

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