



Renewable Energy Target

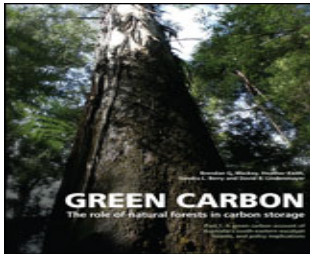
We welcome this opportunity to participate - and submit three recommendations:

1. Oppose the inclusion of Australia's Native Forest wood 'waste' in the expanded RET

Firstly, we wish to acknowledge and thank NAFI for placing Forests on Australia's Climate Change Agenda. Plantations/reforestation is overdue for recognition - as per the Government's Green Paper. But industry cannot have its cake and eat it too. The downside is emissions in three States under RFAs. *We trust Government Ministers acknowledge this balance at the Industry Conference in Sydney in Aug-08.* With emissions from logging over 5% of Australia's total, and over 15% globally, why is native forest logging exempt from Australia's *Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme* and/or *Climate Change Policy*? 80% of our old native forest logs are being wood-chipped under RFAs in NSW, Victoria and Tasmania. Emissions of over 5% can be stopped immediately, and the associated 'waste' will no longer exist. Net carbon accounting payouts should flow to those three states as we reduce Australia's emissions pre-2020. Perverse inclusion of native forest 'waste' will reduce uptake of solar and other genuine RET contributors.

2. Make Native-Forest 'Green Carbon' Count

Ensure scientific carbon-accounting data on Native Forests is reflected in *Climate Change Policy*:



We refer to the Aug-2008 publication by the Australian National University of scientific data on the value of 'Green Carbon' in Australia's natural forests. They chart the loss of carbon before 2020 if trees up to 400 years-old are logged under RFAs - where three States define most standing trees as 'waste'. Re-growth and plantations cannot compensate. Kyoto-based protocols ignored carbon in native forests. ANU addresses REDD ("reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation") as part of the global 'Bali Action Plan' for setting 2020 Targets.

3. Update RFAs & National Forest Policy - before 2010

Are we being hypocritical telling PNG and other countries to stop logging their native forests whilst we keep wood-chipping our own? Ethics is also an issue here. 'Difficulty in measuring emissions' does not excuse outdated National Forest Policy. Europeans no longer log their own old-growth trees - that is why they refuse to import timber from *areas logged* under the Tasmanian RFA (*only re-growth will remain by 2020*). Australia is the only developed country with the same dilemma - and opportunity - as the third world on Native Forests. Australia's main difference is that our rich country has no economic excuse.

Transitional arrangements to exit 3 States' RFAs and their Native Forest Sub-Industry are cost-justified to *help meet our post-Kyoto 2020 Targets*. Our national interest can no longer ignore the reality of native forest **carbon debits** (emissions/loss of carbon sinks) - and then turn-around to claim *credits* for plantations and reforestation. Water and biodiversity conservation provide extra bonuses. Wilderness tourism can thrive. Plantations can compete with native forests. ANU Professors, other organisations, and regional communities can help modernise RFAs - in parallel with **21st Century National Forest Policy**.

Yours Sincerely

Mike Thompson Principal Consultant, Nature.Net Pty Ltd

www.Nature.Net.au ... *green carbon counts*

ABN 24 075 002 185