

Submission on Carbon Credits

I object to any carbon credit scheme which enables valuable farmland to be locked up for investment and tax offset reasons. My objection stems around disinterested players purchasing agricultural land, locking areas up with government sponsored tree planting whilst the government does not offer similar incentives to small to medium farmers which generate employment and revenue for regional areas. Agriculture – such as crops also reduce carbon.

Trees also affect the water table of areas. Whilst government acknowledges climate is changing, long leases where trees cannot be moved in a time where no one knows exactly what the global climate, water and agricultural resources are likely to be is short sighted. We need more agriculture and less investment/tax reduction speculation. We need more productivity and sweat and less individuals and organizations lining up for a free lunch.

In the same vein, if we are to have a carbon tax, lets make sure it is fair and is beneficial. Big polluters such as coal seam gas miners / exporters (which is worse than regular coal) MUST NOT be able to avoid paying their fair share for pollution. There must be NO CREDITS for pollution which these organizations create on our shores. Especially where the regular taxpayer is living with and paying for its cleanup and affects – on individual landowners, communities, our economy and agricultural. If we are serious about bringing in a carbon tax, lets believe it will make a positive difference rather than just another tax that gets passed on to the little guy whilst the big corporations get away with exemptions.