

NATIVE VEGETATION Act 2003 - NSW

- This Act is DEFICIENT & DEFECTIVE.
- It is not the best solution for the purpose of converting Greenhouse Gasses (GHG's)
- Fast growing Crops and Pastures will convert more GHG than slow growing plants (including Native trees, grasses and woody weeds). Proof of this lies in the observation that man has been breeding, cross breeding and selecting faster growing higher yielding varieties of crops and pastures for centuries. (not just in Australia but worldwide).
- Once a quantity of GHG has been 'converted' the process is complete. Locking up the carbon element achieves nothing as far as the GHG issue is concerned. It would be just as effective to lock up Oxygen, Nitrogen, Sulphur or any of the other elements that combine to form GHG's. Yes Carbon Dioxide is considered to be the main GHG but even so it is made up of one atom of carbon and two atoms of oxygen so why pick on carbon and not oxygen? I know man needs oxygen to survive but ALL living plant matter needs CO₂ to survive and animals (including man) doesn't survive on oxygen alone. We need plant matter as well to survive. This brings the argument full circle back to the need to have fast growing crops and pastures. The more the population increases so the more plant matter that is needed.
- It is beyond reasonable scrutiny to argue that we must have NATIVE Vegetation. None of the rest of the world insists on it. The important issue is to have vegetation – any sort will suffice but the best are fast growing varieties. Add to this the desirability of producing food and/or fodder and we move further in front.
- The Act is highly selective and discriminatory. It chooses to single out only those who have native vegetation whereas those who have cleared their land have no obligation. Provided they keep their land ploughed and sown to non-native species they are accepted as complying. Thus the Act discourages the nurturing of native species by the large majority.
- Not all native species are desirable some are detrimental to fauna e.g. wire grass (also known as spear grass) which when brushed by animals gets caught and will burrow its way into the skin or eyes causing pain and suffering. Blackthorn is another native that by its nature inflicts pain when an animal touches it.
- The levels of punishment for breaches of the Act are disproportionate with other acts of illegality. Many misdemeanours incur fines in keeping with the degree of the offence e.g. a negligent driving infringement (which may lead, or have led ,to personal injury) incurs a fine of several hundred dollars but an infringement of the Native Veg Act (even though it does not affect any one personally) will result in fines in thousands, tens of thousands or even millions of dollars. Add to this the likely possibility of a prohibition on the use of the land and/or 'restoration measures'. This is not reconcilable with fairness or 'let the punishment fit the crime'.
- The loss of the principle 'innocence until proven guilty' whereby this Act requires 'guilty until proof of innocence' is unconscionable.
- The Hon Tony Kelly MP, Minister for Lands declared in a letter to the editor of The Land Newspaper that the NSW Govt was in ownership and control of 39% of NSW. This equates to 31,265,000 hectares and can therefore have the whole of it covered in Native vegetation if it wishes. There is no reasonable justification for placing such a heavy burden on only a section of privately owned land.
- It is highly hypocritical of the NSW Govt to be placing restrictions on private land whilst at the same time having a Department, Forests NSW, that continues with the logging of Hardwood forests.

GREENHOUSE GAS ABATEMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE

Solutions for GHG abatement which will eliminate the need for the Native Vegetation Act as well as substantially reducing the production of GHG's are many. Three areas that offer cost effective solutions as well as advance our prosperity are:-

1. ELECTRICITY GENERATION.
2. WATER.
3. TRANSPORT.

1. ELECTRICITY GENERATION.

The vast majority of our Electricity is generated using Coal, both brown and black, as the heat energy source. It accounts for 40% of Australia's GHG emissions.

Replace this with non-polluting generation and our commitments are achieved many fold on current targets. There is a replacement known as HOT FRACTURED ROCK (HFR) GEOTHERMAL GENERATION which transcends all other forms including Solar and Wind.

Australia has MASSIVE reserves of it.

Benefits & advantages are listed here in dot point form for brevity.

- It is clean green energy
- ZERO EMISSIONS
- The heat already exists
- Does not use non-renewable inputs such as coal or uranium
- Available 24/7 It is BASELOAD GENERATION
- Does not burn anything – does not use up Oxygen
- Uses existing technology for turbines and generators
- Uses existing oil drilling rig technology
- MINIMAL WATER CONSUMPTION due to use of a closed cycle system of heat transfer (known as the Kalina cycle).
- Current calculations put the cost of generation at \$40/MWh or 4Cents/kWh which is very competitive with current coal fired costs
- Proven technology with approximately 9,000MW of generation worldwide.
- A small 'proof of concept' unit is operating near Innamincka N.E. South Australia, supplying both the generating site and the village.

New generating capacity is required as demand grows and reserve capacity reduces.

In the heat of summer Peak Demand has reached the total generating capacity available.

Should one or more generator units fail (as happened at Liddel Power station in the mid 1980's) there is every probability that there will be a cascade of overloads resulting in wide spread blackouts. When the failures occurred in the 1980's NSW had what it thought was plenty of reserve capacity. Even so the progressive loss of each of the 4 units resulted in a need to have a series of rolling blackouts to avoid collapse of the system.

Australia is in a unique position to be able to supply all our requirements for 100's of years.

All that is needed is the resolve to get on with it.

More detailed information on HFR GEOTHERMAL is available on the internet at geodynamics.com.au.

WATER

Whilst Australia is regarded as the driest of the continents it is more a case of an imbalance of the distribution than total deficiency.

As long ago as the 1930's an eminent engineer, W.J. Bradfield, proposed a scheme to divert excess water in the wet season from the North down into the head waters of the Murray Darling basin.

If this were to happen water would be available to:-

- improve the environment
- reverse the claim of increased desertification
- make better use of the better soils that are only limited by lack of water at the moment
- establish areas of native vegetation (absorption of GHG's & production of Oxygen)

- establish areas of fast growing crops(absorption of GHG's, production of Oxygen)
- Improve security of supply to South Australia.

With the development of HFR, ZERO EMISSION, GEOTHERMAL ELECTRICITY GENERATION the development of desalination plants is also feasible without producing any pollution.

This will aid the provision of water to an expanding population.

TRANSPORT

- Major producer of CO2 and other GHG's
- Major consumer of non- renewable Fossil fuel
- Major consumer of Oxygen
- No ability to generate emissions offsets

Solution for significant reductions of GHG's plus other side benefits.

EXPANSION OF A NATIONAL RAIL SYSTEM USING ELECTRIC TRACTION.

But is contingent upon the development of HFR GEOTHERMAL Electricity generation.

BENEFITS:-

- Cessation of costly heavy road construction to cater for ever increasing heavier road trucks
- Reduction in loss of life and personal injury
- Improved efficiencies in labour costs
- One train movement transfers 1 or 2 or 3,000 tonnes of payload with 2 or 3 persons. To move the same amount by road requires many trucks. The absolute minimum number is 25 (to move 1,000 tonnes), 50 for 2,000 tonnes, 75 for 3,000 tonnes. And requires 25, or 50, or 75 truck drivers.
- Rail has always been the lowest cost measured in tonne.kilometres/litre
- Eliminates the use of fossil fuel
- Eliminates pollution and GHG's

Submitted for serious consideration .

Signed

Don Woods