



Updated submission on emissions from State Forests (2010-2020)

Today's Australians want to do all we can to cost-effectively reduce emissions by 2020, irrespective of CPRS content. This submission updates our one-page 18-Mar, and references two new Australian Government publications of Mar-09:

1. Initial proposal to the UN on *Reducing emissions from Deforestation & Degradation (REDD)**
2. COAG Consultation Draft on *Australia's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy (2010-2020)*

<http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/strategy/review.html>

We support Minister Penny Wong's 31-Mar-09 *REDD announcement which said "*..it's only a proposal but it reflects the importance Australia ascribes to international action on forests. Measurement is important, credibility is important*". This initial Government REDD proposal also claims to have "*.. been designed to ensure environmental integrity, and to not create perverse outcomes, including for biodiversity.*" REDD's "*transition period*" therefore dovetails perfectly into implementation of the Government's March 2009 draft *Australian Biodiversity Conservation Strategy (2010-2020)*.

Native forest protection is the single most cost-effective measure that Australian Governments can take to reduce CO² emissions 2010-2020. REDD data suggests about 5% of Australia CO² emissions are caused by State Forest logging '*Degradation*', driven by wood-chipping over 80% of our logs. How can we continue to ignore this in our State Forests?

Perverse carbon and biodiversity outcomes are inevitable whilst logging remains State Forests' only revenue source. That must change, in our national interest. Carbon conservation should be their key goal 2010-2020. Perversely, State Govts. are losing money 2009-2020 hastily wood-chipping remaining old trees, supposedly to fund transition to uniform re-growth forests more suited to mechanized harvesting. Carbon dating Mar-09 confirmed Forest Agencies still log trees over 500 years old. Australia's forest heritage and tourism potential is exported as 4 million tonne p.a. of woodchips from trees over 100 year-old (homes to Australia's unique hollows-dependent unsurprisingly-threatened species).

Is Australia being hypocritical in asking Indonesia and others to stop logging their native trees, whilst we keep wood-chipping of our own? Fairness requires all countries play under the same rules. Our international reputation is at stake here, just as it was with AWB in Iraq. Industry lobbyists and vested-interests must not be allowed to pervert Australia's outcomes by ignoring REDD emissions from our own State Forests' logging/degradation for woodchips, *whilst seeking rewards for plantations*. Fast logging/pollution will never be offset by slow-growing plantations/re-forestation 2010-2020.

Our Governments must take responsibility for State Forests before they can credibly devolve carbon credits to private land-owners. State Forests' 5% 'degradation'/pollution, is avoidable, and (less importantly) could cost Australia hundreds of \$Millions in lost carbon credits (conservatively calculated @ \$25/tonne if we apply CPRS measure of worth). We assume Australian Governments will never allow native forest 'bio-fuels' to qualify under MRET rules because latest carbon accounting science suggests forest furnaces are unsustainable and pollute more than coal-fired power stations. Plantations can already supply all of Australia's demand for wood products (refer ANU reports based on Govt. data).

REDD "*can support sub-national approaches*" so we recommend starting with capacity-building *Native Forest Forums* during 2010 in Australia's highest-polluting State Forests in Tasmania, Victoria (Gippsland) and NSW (Eden-Monaro). Videos, photos, satellite and other relevant data is being collated under the supervision of independent scientists. This information promotes the Government's new REDD "*national sustainable forest management framework*". These *Forest Forums* will address regional jobs, and our Government's REDD Principle "*Environmental integrity: The forest carbon market mechanism is designed to deliver genuine emissions reductions from the forest sector and avoid perverse outcomes, including on biodiversity conservation, air, soil and water*"

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*?

Mike Thompson

Forest Sustainability Consultant

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ABN 24 075 002 185