



Fenner School of Environment and Society  
Hancock Building (43)  
The Australian National University  
Canberra ACT 0200  
Australia

The Secretary  
Senate Select Committee on Climate Policy  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

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**Re; Brief submission on increasing carbon sequestration in cropland soils as a means of addressing a significant fraction of Australia's greenhouse gas emissions**

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There has been significant and enthusiastic discussion about the potential for increasing carbon sequestration in Australia's cropland soils as a means of addressing a significant fraction of Australia's greenhouse gas emissions.

I wish to draw the Select Committee's attention to the attached article in the Grain Research and Development Corporation's newsletter, Ground Cover, Issue 76, September-October 2008 by my colleague Dr John Passioura FAA and his CSIRO Plant Industry colleagues on the economic difficulties in increasing soil C sequestration in cropland soils. They argue very persuasively, that because long term stores of the soil carbon fraction have fixed ratios of carbon to nitrogen, carbon to phosphorous, and carbon to sulfur, in order to increase storage of carbon in the soil, farmers must increase the amount of nitrogen, phosphorous and sulfur locked away in the soil carbon fraction. To do this involves an expense greater than the potential return on carbon trades.

Yours sincerely

Ian White FTSE  
Associate Director Research and Professor of Water Resources

8 April 2009