

Submission to the Senate Inquiry on carbon farming

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

April 8th 2011

Re: Carbon Credits Bill 2011, Carbon Credits (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2011 and Aust National Registry of Emissions Units Bill 2011

Dear Madam/Sir,

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the Senate Inquiry on the above. We are a small landcare group who are not likely to benefit hugely from the above opportunities, however, our main concern is to suggest that the opportunity to BOTH sequester carbon and to achieve biodiversity outcomes is realised.

Australia's biodiversity is under massive threat - for which there is plenty of evidence even without climate change (eg Terrestrial Biodiversity Assessment 2002). Professor Will Steffen's work (ANU) provides more evidence as to the threats under climate change.

Our local landcare groups and networks do not get sufficient funds to deliver all we know that needs to be done (and these funds leverage, on average, a further 600% of resources including funds and labour according to Allan Curtis' work on Landcare (Charles Sturt University). The National Conservation Strategy will also need funds if it is to be meaningful.

The investment in carbon sequestration MUST deliver biodiversity outcomes as well as the carbon sequestration. To this end i) we urge that the legislation requires that biodiversity outcomes are seriously considered in any carbon farming proposal and ii) we support the proposal from the Australian Conservation Foundation for a special biodiversity fund that would come from, for instance, a percentage of the carbon tax.

We strongly urge you to consider these matters in your deliberations.

Yours sincerely,

Julie Thompson
Secretary
Johns Hill Landcare Group Inc.