

Subject:

Greenhouse Gas Emissions - Submission

Date:

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From:

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To:

"Committee Secretary" <Environment.Reps@aph.gov.au>

Augusta - Margaret River Shire Council is investigating the possibility of establishing an 'Environmental Repair and Enhancement Trust' to assist in the maintenance and improvement of the Shire's natural resources.

One of the sources of potential income for the above Trust is the purchase of degraded farmland which could be re-vegetated. Initially the concept of commercial woodlots for later harvesting was considered viable as an income source.

However, the potential to sell emission rights would also be feasible and conform to the Council's overall objective of becoming an area of net positive contribution to the greenhouse gas emission problem through the establishment of a substantial carbon sink.

Your Committee is requested to consider the following matters as a formal submission;

* Local Government should not be restricted from being an 'emission trader'.

*An individual Local Government area should not be able to trade (ie offset emission levels), within its own area, nor should it have any regulatory supervision role, within its own area, IF that Local Government authority registers as an 'emission trader'. However individual Local Government areas should be able to offset its own works internally which should not be considered as trading.

*The sale of emission rights may well assist struggling rural communities with new income sources and will improve the general amenity of those areas.

*Existing vegetated areas should not automatically qualify for emission offset status because this will not lead to an overall improvement in environmental outcomes if it was the only source of offset.

*Areas of potential offset planting need to be mapped to accommodate issues such as impact on existing watertables and predicted climatic outcomes.

Overall Australia appears to be well placed to benefit from the judicious use

of emission transfer rights.

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