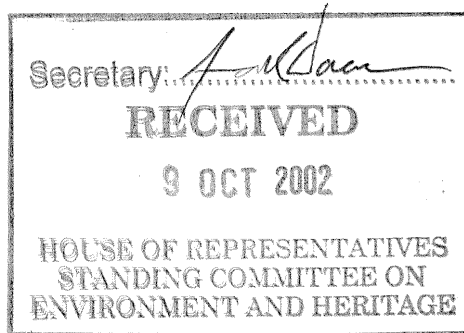


R. Vulcz
260 Amiets Road
Wyelangta
Victoria 3237

October 3, 2002

Clerk Assistant (Committees)
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT
Email: committee.reps@aph.gov.au



Dear Committee members,

I note that the submission period has closed for the inquiry into employment in the environment sector. However, I am interested in this subject and would like to be kept informed of the progress of the inquiry.

The submissions received reveal a marked difference in people's perception of what constitutes environmental goods and services. Michael Fendley, VNPA Director, wrote in the October 2002 Update of the VNPA newsletter about playing the context game. He defined the context game in terms of the "struggle between conservation interests and opponents".

My partner and I have a small property in the Otway Ranges, where we grow and harvest native flora. Although environmentally aware, we are viewed as the 'opposition' by the VNPA, due to the fact that we utilise natives and participate in the market system, rather than receive grants. I believe the biggest impediment to the growth of environmental goods and services in Australia, is that conservationists consider that they are in a battle against producers and the market sector, rather than the fact that we are all intrinsically linked on the one continent. There are many examples of private enterprise stepping on the turf of the non-profit sector and consequentially failing.

Urban-based environmental goods and services are better understood by the conservation sector. Sustainable 'buildings', sustainable 'cities', sustainable 'energy' systems (as long as the alternative power is not generated on public land) therefore appear to be the sectors that have the most potential for growth in Australia at present. The survey by DNRE on community attitudes highlights that urban residents are most concerned with pollution and waste management, the two issues that directly affect them. Public transport should therefore be a growth sector if only it was marketed as the environmentally friendly alternative to cars. The recent moves in Italy to only allow cars to use a highway two days a week, except for cars with three or more people in them, is certainly one way to get people to use alternative public transport or car pool.

There is so much potential for the provision of environmental goods and services in our state, but while we are limited to only those products and systems approved by the green movement, with conservation monopolised by government funded organisations, this potential will not be realised.

Any further requirement for reporting imposed on small businesses and landholders will result in further attention being taken away from production. A recent catchment management document listed the managers of private property as government bodies and failed to acknowledge that private landholders also 'manage' their own properties. In the recent AFFA Land and Water Audit, a diagram depicting a dairy farm system left out the economic factors imperative for the dairy farm to continue sustainably. Such omissions and assumptions highlight that those paid with government funds still do not understand market systems and will continue to impede progress towards environmental sustainability due to this oversight.

Employment of specialised environment personnel is a luxury that only larger companies can afford in our current competitive global market. Our small business is trying to overcome this by training ourselves in the area of sustainable development. Local knowledge is not recognised or respected in our state. Environmental management systems for every workplace, designed, imposed and enforced by government officials and unofficial watchers, with no consideration of economic factors, will not enhance innovation in a rural context.

Regards,

Rosemary Vulcz

Lyons, Marlene (REPS)

From: Scarlett, Cheryl (REPS) on behalf of Committee, EWR (REPS)
Sent: Wednesday, 9 October 2002 3:13 PM
To: Committee, Environment (REPS)
Subject: FW: inquiry

I think this is for you

-----Original Message-----

From: Fielder, Sarah (REPS) On Behalf Of Committee (REPS)
Sent: Wednesday, October 09, 2002 8:55 AM
To: Committee, EWR (REPS)
Subject: FW: inquiry



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employment.doc...

-----Original Message-----

From: [mr.fern \[mailto:mr.fern@bigpond.com\]](mailto:mr.fern@bigpond.com)
Sent: Wednesday, 9 October 2002 1:33 AM
To: Committee (REPS)
Subject: inquiry

Please find attached a comment on the inquiry into environment employment.
Regards,
Rosemary Vulcz
ph 03 52 373216
fax 03 52 373270