

due 8-April 9 Email: climate.sen@aph.gov.au
<http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/membership/index.htm#Climate>

**Submission to the Senate Select Committee
Inquiry on Climate policy.**

From Harriett Swift, Convener, *CHIPSTOP* campaign against woodchipping the SE forests, 02-64923134, PO Box 797 Bega NSW 2550 Australia
<http://www.chipstop.forests.org.au>

Native forest protection is the single most effective and cheapest measure that can be taken to reduce Australia's and the world's greenhouse gas emissions. The scientific evidence to support this is clear and unequivocal – supported by Australian and international research.

The Government has chosen to ignore this and seems hell bent on introducing a scheme that will not even count logging emissions, let alone cut them. Worse, it will probably lead to no cuts at all to Australia's national emissions while big polluters are rewarded and allowed to offset their emissions cheaply by buying into dubious schemes which may (or may not) protect tropical rainforest (REDD). All the while, Australia's Governments to continue to allow massive destruction of our own native forests for woodchips.

I am weary of writing submissions on this subject. Nevertheless, here is a very brief outline. If you want me to elaborate on any detail I would be happy to do so.

1. The Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme does not include native forests and that is fine. An emissions trading scheme is no place for a forest policy. The CPRS places far too much reliance on plantations; these can never store as much carbon as native forests and are far more vulnerable to natural disturbance such as drought, fire and storm, all of which will become more frequent under climate change.
2. The CPRS gives open slather to biofuels. It exempts them. Biofuels are not defined, but when considered together with the new expanded Mandatory Renewable Energy Target (MRET) native forest wood "waste" will be eligible. "Waste" wood as a feedstock for power generation is more greenhouse intensive than coal if the whole life cycle is taken into account. The new MRET legislation has been drafted and will probably go to Parliament in the next sitting period. It will be a disaster for Australia's forests and lead to ongoing destruction of native forest, even after the woodchipping industry ceases to be viable.
3. We need separate action outside of CPRS to protect native forests as carbon sinks. Australia looks hypocritical in international forums by arguing for and subsidising for our neighbours such as Indonesia and PNG to protect their native forests while continuing to log our own.
4. Recent scientific research shows that carbon stored in Australia's south eastern forests has been underestimated by a factor of 3 to 6 by the IPCC. If left unlogged, these native forests can store the equivalent of about 24% of Australia's total emissions.

5. Biochar is not the answer. It may improve some soils and some forms of it may be capable of being sustainably produced. However, whether it is worth even considering depends entirely on the feedstock. To use native forest wood to make charcoal to bury in the ground is bordering on bizarre, the new climate snake oil.