



SOUTH WEST ENVIRO CENTRE INC.

PO BOX 610 PADSTOW NSW 2211

Contact: Gary Blaschke 02 9759 0997

Managers of Freshwater Creek Wetlands

The Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on
Rural Affairs and Transport
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

15 July 2008

INQUIRY INTO IMPLEMENTATION, OPERATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE LEGISLATION UNDERPINNING CARBON SINK FORESTS

Dear Secretary,

It gives me no great pleasure to announce that I as an environmental advocate for over two decades, understand most of the principles of Carbon trading, yet still have enormous concerns with the uncertainty of both the science and practical reasoning for the need.

It is in my opinion, that the problem we have created is a head in the sand mentality, totally ignoring the fact of a healthy, clean environment for future generations, versus the economic factors which in most cases benefit those who generally create the major problem in the first place.

Is it a fact that we are only fooling ourselves by introducing a feel good tax which may be flawed by the introduction of legislation that fails to understand how our unique Australian environment can remain sustainable.

The introduction of another smoke and mirrors legislation for the environment will certainly generate an army of bureaucracy, yet leave a trail of destruction if not carefully and slowly introduced. As with most Federal and State environmental legislations, very few have the legislative power to enforce any breach with other newer legislations having been introduced, rendering the existing rules invalid.

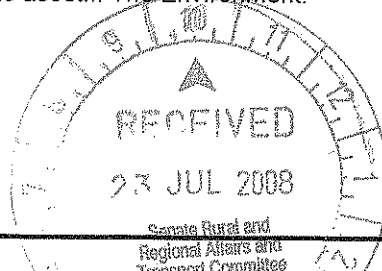
Any legislation that allows polluters the means to be able to buy their way out of trouble is flawed indeed, especially those cashed up large emitters. Whatever name you give it, "Trade-offs", "Offsets" or "Green offsets", does not change the issue, that being large industry continually pollutes and will always be allowed to pollute as long as they can do a deal and buy their way out of trouble.

It is essential that this committee gets it right, as unforeseen environmental externalities could and will have devastating consequences for the future health of Australia's environment. Changes to catchment areas, introduction of non-indigenous species, little guarantee for long term management plans, loss of productive agricultural land and the list goes on.

For the sake of our future, look at the real issues and don't just introduce band-aid solutions that will infect our most precious asset... The Environment.

Yours sincerely,

Gary Blaschke OAM
SWEC President



COMMUNITY NETWORKING FOR A BETTER ENVIRONMENT