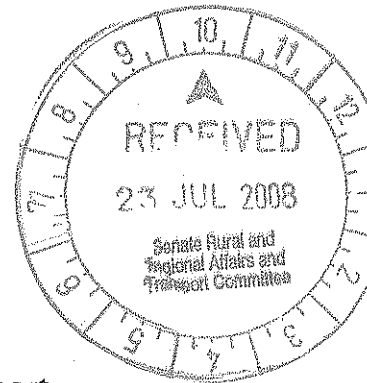


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16th July 2008

Secretary,
Senate Standing Committee on Rural & Regional Affairs & Transport
Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Secretary,

**Re: Inquiry into the Implementation, Operation & Administration
of the Legislation Underpinning Carbon Sink Forests**

I wish to record that I do not support the Legislation.

If you were living in a nice rural community like mine that's being systematically gutted by federal tax-driven plantation developments, where real estate values are artificially 'through the roof' because companies operating Managed Investment Schemes can basically offer any high-fallutin' price they want to buy out your neighbours and knock down the community's infrastructure because they can get it all back on tax (which we poor taxpayers subsidize), and where valleys of views, once prosperous family-based dairy farms and productive food cropping land are being soaked up by a monoculture of fast-growing non-Tasmanian (bloody Victorian) *E.nitans*, then I doubt you'd want to support this legislation either.

There's a hell of a lot of difference between what's a "forest" (which has multi-aged diverse species supporting all kinds of wildlife) and what's a "plantation" (which you'll notice if you ever have the misfortune to go walking in one, is typically empty of bird-calls and smelling of rotting wallaby carcasses). It is a gross deceit on the part of the blighters who wrote this legislation, and an insult to the public's intelligence to suggest that plantations are "as good as" forests, or that they are one and the same.

If Australia is to have such a conceptual beast as "Carbon Sink Forests", then let this legislation at least have some truth in it.

Let it place a better, higher value on our existing native forests (what we've got left) that might cause the kind of major re-think that's needed in current forestry practices that only value native trees as "wood-chips" (after-all, this Carbon capture business should all be about changing the ways we live on this earth, isn't it?) and let it serve to protect our existing native forests (both the old-growth and the re-growth) from the wasteful destruction that's presently occurring as part of everyday forestry logging practices.

I'm not against forestry, but why don't you protect the carbon capacity of our existing native forests?

Let this Bill be called the Protection of Native Forests Carbon Capacity Bill instead.

Let it begin by outlawing the pathetic habit that's ingrained down here of dynamiting our magnificent forest giants (that we bring foreign tourists here to see while they still can) because they're "dangerous", "old" or "in the way", and let it put an end to the wanton burning of so-called "waste-products", the left-overs of clear-felling operations every summer, which cause nuclear bomb-like clouds of smoke to rise up all over the place like whopping great mushrooms, polluting the air we breathe, and making the rest of us who are obliged to share this island and this planet look and feel like the miserable flotsom of some Third-World banana republic.

And let it divest itself of the pretense of being anything other than more heady elixer for the ill-conceived Managed Investment Schemes that were greedily conceived in the Howard Government era and that began the dreadful process of wrecking our little rural communities and turning our food-production zones into woodchip heaven.

You need to ensure that you get this legislation right, you blokes, if you're going to have it at all. Currently, it isn't: you haven't, and consequently I don't support it.

Yours sincerely,



John R. Wilson
Iris Farm Private Nature Reserve