

30 July 2008

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

Dear Secretary,

Thank you for your invitation for members of the public to make submissions on the Inquiry into the Implementation, Operation and Administration of the Legislation Underpinning Carbon Sink Forests.

Public Native forests - those in State forests, National Parks and Crown Land - are very valuable resources as carbon sinks. These ideas which are being recognised by decision makers now, were obvious to Aboriginal people for tens of thousands of years. They didn't say carbon sinks, deforestation, afforestation and related terms - they didn't have to. Traditional lore imbued them with a respect for trees and forests that society is now trying to achieve. I wish you well with your endeavours.

When the first settlers arrived and began chopping down trees, Aboriginal people ran out to protect those precious trees. Most likely some of them had their heads chopped off. Perhaps you might like to think of them as Australia's first tree martyrs. Even now Aboriginal people still weep when they see what has been done to the forests.

Some of our management agencies think of trees and forests simply as resources - to be woodchipped and sent off to Japan. In the process high amounts of greenhouse gases are produced - due to the logging, transport and electricity usage. These motives are mainly based on self interest and a lack of understanding. When trees are cut down for woodchips young trees grow back. But they are young and not equivalent to the older trees that have been cut down. Many of these practices are no longer sustainable - due to over cutting and climate change. Climate change itself is mainly caused by the actions of human beings.

It will be best to protect these trees.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "T. Digwood". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

T, Digwood
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