

# prue acton

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, hydrology and to prevent species loss.

I have watched the continual destruction of our natural landscape all my life. I have seen our rivers and streams dry up and experienced bush fires. I have seen the effects of our current forest logging, firsthand. My interest in history showed me the fate of civilizations who destroyed their forests.

So with great conviction I wish to convey to you that to continue 'mining of Australia's natural, native forests, is to deny the evolution of carbon based life and subsequent development of earth's atmosphere and therefore the power of nature to correct atmospheric imbalances.

Our land is drying out and heating up from destruction of forests.

To consider electricity generation as a further usage for our already depleted native forests show motives that are mainly based on self interest and a lack of understanding of the carbon carrying capacity of forests and the loss of water during regrowth.

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.

The effect on the acidification of oceans largely due to the loss of 50% of the world's forest, the best terrestrial carbon sequestration we have, means even if we stop fossil fuel pollution, we would ultimately not stop the changes to our atmosphere and the green house gas heating effect.

Our best climate change option is to protect forests, not exploit them.

Yours faithfully,  
Prue Acton