

Submission to Garnaut Review

General

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I would like to commend the Review to date and confirm support for its direction, especially with respect to need for long term policy; and recognition of Australia's vulnerability along with our capacity in the science and technology field to contribute to the global effort.

With respect to vulnerability it should be noted that WA has Australia's only Biodiversity Global Hotspot in its SW region and this is an area that is particularly vulnerable to temperature and rainfall changes in all models. It would be reassuring to see this acknowledged.

The South West is experiencing declining rainfall over the last 30 years, part of which IOCI (2006 Conference, Perth) attributed to land clearing (see also CSIRO and Macquarie University work). The lower rainfall wheatbelt areas currently are experiencing declining rainfall and virtually all currently have Exceptional Circumstance funding. There is a large Oil Mallee planting program and allied (but not completely corresponding) to this is the development of an Intergrated Wood Processing plant which has been through its economic viability proving trials. It would therefore seem to be sensible to encourage the scaled up versions of this plant in country towns (5Kw) along with a stewardship for GHG abatement program directed at oil mallee and biodiversity plantings on the more marginal areas. This could in part, replace Exceptional Circumstance funding. It could also be used in conjunction with precision farming and other agricultural adaptations at which farmers are adept, to improve those areas that are cropped. The benefits would be, tackling salinity, inducing rainfall, relieving the grid of energy demand, economic growth in declining country towns, and biodiversity support. It would appear to be a brilliant example of an holistic

approach to problems in the wheatbelt, and I believe is equally applicable to areas in the Eastern States.

The report (ETS p 54) refers to the need to assist developing countries with our research and development. Small scale renewables would seem to be of great importance, as they would assist smaller villages and towns to have energy without the need for grid connection to large power stations. They also have applicability to our own remote regions (as AGO programs have promoted) and to decentralisation in general. The importance of economic drivers runs through the reports and it interesting to reflect on the disadvantage of renewables (small and large) in that they don't have a profit motivated driver equivalent to the supplier of coal or gas. There would thus seem a role for government to level this particular playing field.

Similarly the investment of government in public infrastructure (p55 ETS report) is supported. A broader principle is to internalise all costs with energy users and producers. – or at least be transparent and accountable if they are not. The example of road (external) and rail (internal) infrastructure costs is the usual example, with its consequence on their competitiveness.

Finally I would like to draw attention to the role of local government. They are going to be increasingly important in adaptation measures but are already struggling from a decreasing Federal Government support and an increasing demand for services abrogated by the other levels of government. Their efforts cover not only their own corporate areas and assets but also the well being of their communities. They have shown a rapid and marked ability to mitigate emissions (see CCP Program delivered by ICLEI with AGO funding.) and many are starting to prepare formal Adaptation Strategies. They have an important role in land-use planning and built form which as mentioned in Issues Paper 5 has implications for emissions.

Thank you for the opportunity and wish you well.