

Submissions
Garnaut Climate Change Review
Level 2, 1 Treasury Place
Melbourne VIC 3002

SUBMISSION TO THE GARNAUT CLIMATE CHANGE REVIEW

I am a science-trained Australian citizen, deeply concerned about climate change and the implications for the future: for the potential devastation of the natural world and the impoverished future that will be inherited by our children and grandchildren.

Urgent action must be taken to reduce the greenhouse gases entering the atmosphere. I am aware of recent research conducted by the ANU, demonstrating that the default IPCC value for temperate forests grossly underestimates by ten times the carbon stock of Australia's temperate forests. The total stock of carbon that can be stored in 15 million hectares of temperate eucalypt forest is estimated by ANU research to be around 10 million tonnes: not the 1 billion tonnes that would be estimated using IPCC default values. *

The implications are clear. Protecting native forests and bushland is an extremely cost-effective way to cut greenhouse emissions.. There will also be positive effects for our water, biodiversity and social harmony: the forestry issue being so bitterly divisive in parts of Australia.

In particular, the quantity of greenhouse gas entering the atmosphere from the clearfell and burn regime conducted in Tasmanian forests must be truly enormous – ceasing this destructive practice would be very cost-effective means of achieving an immediate deep cut in emissions.

I urge you to take my suggestions very seriously and I look forward to your response on this matter.

Signed

Loren H Mills
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* **Green Carbon: The Role of Ecosystems (Natural Forests) in Carbon Storage and the Climate Change Problem.** Prof Brendan Mackey, Dr Heather Keith and Dr Sandy Berry, Australian National University. November 2007