

**Submission on
Issues Paper 1 Climate Change: Land use – Agriculture and Forestry**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into your study.

Despite the title of the Issues Paper, I was surprised that the climate change implications of Australia's current forestry policy direction is not dealt with in detail. I recently read with interest the Federal Environment Minister, Peter Garrett's, address at the launch of the World Bank Forest Carbon Partnership Facility earlier this month in Bali. While the Australian government is to be commended for assisting developing nations with measures to reduce greenhouse gas production through reducing deforestation and forest degradation, it will be seen as hypocritical if we do not address this very issue on home soil.

Studies have estimated that the logging of native forests within Australia is responsible for up to 20% of our greenhouse gas production, with 80% of this contribution resulting from woodchip-driven operations. According to forest industry expert Dr Judith Ajani of the Australian National University, established plantations already provide a "climate-friendly" alternative woodchip resource to the ongoing harvesting of native forests. If Australia is serious about leading the world on climate change abatement measures, as Prime Minister Rudd states, then your deliberations must surely investigate the future direction of the forest industry in this country in a detailed and rigorous manner.

Within the context of climate change policy, the Tasmanian Forests Conservation Society is, of course, deeply concerned about forest management in Tasmania. The Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) which guides forest management in that state is not only strongly skewed towards forestry interests at the expense of protecting high-conservation value forest areas, it fails to even consider the climate change implications of business as usual in this sector of our economy. The same is true for all of the RFAs governing forest management along the eastern seaboard of Australia.

This shortcoming is, in a sense, excusable given that the RFAs were negotiated some years ago. Such excuses do not apply now, however, as the future operation of all industries requires review concerning their greenhouse gas emissions. Thus, I strongly urge the Garnaut Review to stringently assess Australia's forestry industry. For us to be urging developing nations to curtail deforestation and forest degradation without doing so ourselves would be shameful.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to provide comments to your review.

Yours sincerely

Sam Rando

30 December 2007