WILLOUGHBY CITY COUNCIL
City of Diversity

The Office of the General Manager

15 January 2008

The Garnaut Commission
Commonwealth Government of Australia

contactus@garnautreview.org.au

Dear Sir/Madam

Re Submission on Issue Paper One 'Climate Change: Land use - Agriculture and forestry' – support for soil carbon sequestration using char processes

Willoughby City Council is strongly committed to sustainability and to reaching its target of a 50% reduction in Greenhouse gas emissions by 2010. As part of this target Council officers have been investigating soil carbon sequestration via char processes such as 'Agrichar'. It is felt that this technology has tremendous potential to reduce the carbon burden being added to the atmosphere. Council would like to see barriers removed which are slowing down the implementation of soil carbon sequestration. The approval of char technology as an approved carbon offset would enable this technology to be rapidly introduced.

Willoughby City Council through its investigations feels that:

1) the implementation of the slow pyrolysis process and the use of biochar/ agrichar in soils should be supported;
2) there is potential for significant carbon sequestration and greenhouse gas mitigation benefits from the use of slow pyrolysis technology;
3) there is potential for slow pyrolysis to deliver renewable energy solutions;
4) slow pyrolysis technology offers the benefits of easily measured and audited carbon off-sets.

Council is especially interested in the final point in terms of turning our green waste into char for soil sequestration of carbon – provided this is an accredited offset. Given the urgency of climate change, and the perceived value of this technology, we urge all levels of government to assess and support the implementation of this technology.

Yours faithfully

Nick Tobin
GENERAL MANAGER

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