

Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Taskforce
Department of Climate Change
GPO Box 854
Canberra ACT 2601

Peter Wadham
P. O. Box 299 Healesville
Victoria 3777
peterwadham@yahoo.com

Wednesday 27th Feb 2008

Dear Taskforce,

thank-you for the chance to have input on this policy paper. The main concern I wish to raise is with the suggestion that the climate pollution generated by logging in native forests isn't yet accounted. Our forests are greatly valuable as carbon sinks - it would be negligent to continue sheltering the timber and woodchip industries from their impacts. And such an oversight would lead our policy-makers to ignore this substantial contribution to climate change.

There is some challenge involved in allocating the correct amount of carbon loss to logging operations - which clearly hinges upon the class of forest being logged. But even if accounting began with the minimum output levels of the driest and youngest of mixed species forests, and then worked up to accounting the dramatically higher levels lost from more mature forests, this would be far preferable to ignoring the problem altogether.

The minimum level of carbon lost from selectively logging a dry mixed species forest is 150 tonnes per hectare. This is measured in the difference between the pre-logged forest and the equivalent re-growth forest approx. 60 years post-logging. In the case of clearfelling in mature forest it is around 1500 tonnes of carbon lost per hectare. Only a tiny portion of this loss is stored in wood products. Most enters the atmosphere, so the conversion from C to CO₂ is three times higher, i.e. from 450 to 4500 tonnes of greenhouse pollution per each hectare logged. And Australia is logging around 55,000 hectares of forest every year.

Furthermore It is absolutely irresponsible to long-term investors to continue distorting the liabilities inherent in forestry.

Thank-you for taking this on board,

Yours Sincerely,

Peter Wadham