

20th June 2016

DELWP

Re: Modernisation of the Victorian Regional Forest Agreements

To whom it may concern

I have just filled out the online survey regarding the above matter but feel I need to write a letter about what I have said in the survey. I am not an organisation. I am just a concerned member of the public.

5 year review is not enough

With the daily statistics coming in about the environment, climate change, future jobs, sustainable economics and just transition jobs, I feel you need to keep reviewing this matter and start supporting logging companies to transition ASAP.

Solutions including Indigenous People, Plants, Animals and Sustainable jobs and Economics

1. Buy back some land from farmers and loggers to start planting Indigenous Plants and trees to sustain our wildlife or encourage them to do it themselves by giving them a tax incentive or with providing soil and biodiversity experts, education, knowledge transfer, encouraging community groups to bond and help each other transition, etc.
 - A) Loggers and farmers can start planting Indigenous Crops on their land to harvest eg flour made from reeds which according the Bruce Pascoe's Book 'Dark Emu' are sweeter than the flour made from wheat. This will generate a sustainable employment and economy in the Bush Tucker Indigenous Drought proof staple food Industry within Australia and overseas. It could replace wheat in some drought areas?
 - B) They could also grow wild rice, oat grass, wild yams to generate a sustainable employment and economy in the Bush Tucker Indigenous Drought proof Gourmet Food Industry
 - C) They could grow kangaroo grass which suits the Australian land and climate for our wildlife so the wildlife have something to eat while loggers and farmers grow crops. This will help slow down extinction rates.
 - D) These crops could be grown amongst Indigenous native trees and forests that suit our climate and don't require water or pest control.

Farming and logging could be revolutionised to be drought and pest proof while also producing an economy that is sustainable into the future by looking into Indigenous agriculture and management. See Bruce Pascoe's book 'Dark Emu'

<https://www.abc.net.au/local/audio/2014/03/17/3965103.htm>

- E) Do back burning as per the Indigenous methods to manage forest fires and the health of the land

- F) Also consult and hire Indigenous fire risk assessors and inspectors. This will help mitigate the risk of bush fires and would save our country millions of dollars in disaster relief
 - G) Logging companies can also look into Eco Tourism
 - H) Logging companies and Farmers can look into Education Institutes eg like the Mulloon Institute. They could even attract international students
 - I) Logging companies can set up school camps for future jobs to generate an income (as long as they are not spraying)
 - J) Stop the Urban Sprawl and plant Urban forests. Slow traffic down near these forests.
2. Keep up to date with 21st Century Economists like Kate Raworth's Doughnut Economics to find ways of creating future jobs and 'just transition' jobs. <https://www.kateraworth.com/>
 3. Watch the Australian movie documentary '2040' by Damon Gameau for inspiration of what the future looks like. <https://www.abc.net.au/triplej/programs/hack/2040-film-climate-change-damon-gameau/11135038>
 4. Or read about or watch the 20 minute documentary 'Grassroots' by another Aussie. This could secure the biodiversity of our land and water if his theory on fungi is correct? https://www.organicconsumers.org/blog/how-largest-army-world-can-solve-climate-change?fbclid=IwAR1ygB_sb9K4BMaJSujCV9OALeTwesxwOvaORr9ZODL90cVFt5THsbzVyl8
 5. Hire Indigenous people as well as people with a special interest or qualifications on the environment to be rangers, educators, knowledge transfer, policy makers, future job leaders, etc.
 6. Hire Indigenous people and environmentalists, future economists, just transition and future job experts to oversee the transition of the logging industry.

On the outskirts of Melbourne, I have seen birds like Rosellas drop from the sky after an orchard was sprayed and the farmer has to be tested regularly.

I have also signed petitions in the town of Bright here in Victoria when the **local logging company did an aerial spray** and it went into their drinking water. Over the years, I have noticed that I do not hear as many birds in the morning as I used to. If you stopped spraying, you might make some savings with the health of your workers, the local community and wildlife as well as the cost of the poison and the petrol for the aeroplane that drops the poison, the labour required to spray the poison, etc.

The transition of jobs, the logging industry, chemical companies and farming industry can be funded by the saving of money that is released each year for bush fire damage, health risks due to spraying and drought relief funds. Insurance companies can be called upon to also help sponsor these initiatives as we pave the way to lessen their risks on payouts.

Another funding idea for Just Transition - We could also start charging if not a tax but an environmental and health impact yearly fee for international companies like logging companies or coal mining companies or energy companies like Energy Australia's parent company in the Virgin Islands who make a profit of 30 million but does not pay one cent of tax. This could be used for 'Just Transition jobs' or for our health system in the Latrobe Valley or to clean up the environment from the mess they made in the Latrobe Valley or in the communities where logging is the main income.

So please, do a review every 6 months not every 5 years.

Kind Regards

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