

11 September 2009

The Hon Kevin Rudd
Prime Minister of Australia
Via email

Dear Prime Minister

In advance of the UN Secretary General's Summit on Climate Change in New York on 22 September, Environment Business Australia is writing to you to ask you to champion the concept of 5 key projects from each country to tackle climate change and build new markets, new industries and new jobs. A separate letter to you outlines the 5 approaches we consider offer the most benefits to Australia while achieving considerable reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

Here we would like to bring to your attention to '*Bio CCS*' (biological carbon capture & storage) a series of practical, on the ground commercial scale demonstration projects using soil carbon and biosequestration to transform heavily degraded and/or polluted areas into healthy, vibrant environments. There are multiple benefits:

- Removal of excess 'legacy' CO₂ from the atmosphere
- Capture and use CO₂ emissions from coal-fired electricity plants (and other major emitters) to produce renewable stocks of oil and biodiesel via algae photosynthesis
- Regeneration of degraded agricultural soils, improving agricultural production, at the same time improving drought and salinity resilience and farming/food/community health

The first '*Bio CCS*' project is in the Gippsland region with others to follow in Queensland and WA. Discussions in China and India in October are expected to finalise sites to develop twinned commercial demonstration projects. In the last week discussions with the Indian Delegation to Australia have confirmed that India is actively seeking sustainable technologies capable of delivering commercially sound solutions in India. The many projects being pursued in China also highlight a desire for the Chinese to tackle climate change on a commercial basis. These discussions are programmed to continue in India and China through October. As you know both these countries have severely depleted soils and looming food security concerns and both are heavily dependent on coal for the near future. To a large extent the battle against climate change will be won or lost in these countries.

Biology has provided nature with ready-made filters – the '*Bio CCS*' demonstration projects will harness these filters to demonstrate commercial viability of speedily cleaning the air, improving water quality, and improving food outputs by 'closing nature's loops'. We anticipate strong community support for economic and health as well as environmental reasons.

Attached is a brief description of the '*Bio-CCS*' carbon capture and terrestrial and biosequestration projects as well as a schematic outlining stages of the projects and the proponents, the anticipated capital costs and commercial returns. These projects have been put together by industry and are supported by big emitters who want low-cost, high-confidence biosequestration carbon credits/offsets to be recognised in the CPRS and in the international carbon accounting framework. This is where we seek Government support:

- To ensure that biosequestration (*Bio CCS*) is treated equally with geological sequestration (*Geo CCS*) in the domestic emissions trading scheme
- To champion the recognition of abatement and mitigation potential of terrestrial and biosequestration in international negotiations in the lead up to, and at Copenhagen

We ask for this support because we firmly believe that '*Bio CCS*' offers large scale and rapid ways of economically and commercially reducing atmospheric concentrations of CO₂. We also believe that it is a tangible and no regrets approach that would facilitate the engagement of China, India, Africa and many other developing countries in the global climate change efforts. The objective of '*Bio CCS*' is to have big emitters, national and international scientific organisations and farming communities committed to undertaking commercially viable carbon reduction programs.
Yours sincerely



Fiona Wain, CEO, Environment Business Australia
For **Andrew Lawson**, Managing Director, MBD Energy and **Dr John White**, Director, Ignite Energy Resources

Attached: Bio CCS project schematic; 2 page project description