

Submission to Soil Sequestration in Victoria Enquiry – Victorian Parliamentary Committee for Environment and Natural Resources

I very much appreciate the opportunity to make a brief submission to the Parliamentary Committee for Environment and Natural Resources regarding *Soil Sequestration in Victoria*.

It is my firm belief that **Biochar** technology has the potential to not only provide for the long-term storage of carbon in soils, but also dramatically improve soil productivity, deal with polluting waste streams and generate renewable energy.

www.csiro.au/files/files/poei.pdf

Research conducted by NSW DPI in Australia has shown that Biochar can significantly elevate crop yields, reduce nitrous oxide emissions from soils it has been incorporated in and importantly greatly improve moisture holding capacity.

www.dpi.nsw.gov.au › Research

International research has also provided ample evidence that Biochar improves soils and assists in greater crop yields.

www.blue-leaf.ca/main-en/.../BlueLeaf_Biochar_Field_Trial_2008_fv.pdf

<http://www.biochar-international.org/cameroon>

Significantly it has been established that indigenous people from the central Amazon area in South America had improved soils for centuries by incorporating charcoal, in fact this dark soil known as *Terra preta* is still incredibly productive today and is sold to farmers as a commodity. en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Terra_preta

It has been clearly established that even centuries after the addition of charcoal to soils in the central Amazon area that the material has not broken down hence its great potential for long-term carbon sequestration.

www.css.cornell.edu/faculty/lehmann/index.html

Many waste streams liberate greenhouse gases to the atmosphere within short time periods these include: municipal landfill, sewerage bio-solids, agricultural wastes, plantation forestry wastes and green wastes.

Biochar technology is a **carbon negative** process that actually draws CO₂ from the atmosphere due to the interception of waste streams where a significant percentage of the material burnt in a low oxygen environment is retained as carbon in the charcoal produced with the remaining gases and heat generated from the process utilised for renewable energy.

www.ehponline.org/members/2009/117-2/innovations.html

To sum up I fully commend the development of Biochar technology in Victoria due to its potential to provide for the long-term storage of carbon in soils, as well as significantly improving fertility and moisture holding capacity and importantly having the ability to deal with greenhouse gas polluting waste streams to not only produce Biochar, but also generate clean renewable energy from the off-gases generated by the production process.

I would welcome the opportunity to assist the committee in identifying Australian experts in the field of Biochar research and development to speak directly about this exciting technology.

Additionally as a member of a dedicated regional movement involved in pursuing the development of this technology in far southwest Victoria I would also welcome the opportunity for members of this group (South West Victorian Biochar Action Group) to speak directly to the committee if called upon.

Yours sincerely,

Doug Phillips

PO Box 531, Portland, Vic, 3305

PH: (03) 5523 6839 (BH)

e-mail: dphillips@aussiebroadband.com.au

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