

Soil Sequestration in Victoria

December 3, 2009

We very much appreciate the opportunity to make this submission to the Parliamentary Committee for Environment and Natural Resources on this matter.

We are sure the Committee will hear from others on the potential of biochar in this regard, rather than repeat the numerous excellent and credible references on the subject we would prefer to make a few general points we believe important to development of successful policy.

1. Biochar as a sequestration method is the only one that provides a direct opportunity for individuals, groups and businesses to become involved and make a positive contribution to CO2 reduction in a clear unequivocal way where the results of their effort can be seen and touched.
2. Application of Biochar with its inherent positive soil effects that go far beyond its carbon storage potential provides a level of comfort that irrespective of the true effect on climate change its existence will provide lasting benefits to the community and environment for decades if not centuries or millenia.
3. The recognition of Biochar as both a beneficial soil amendment product and a carbon sequestration tool leverages the commercialization of farm and community scale plant for conversion of what is currently waste and/or problematic biomass resources into far more beneficial products including renewable power from the off gases of well designed systems.
4. The resulting development of a biomass biochar/bioenergy industry could provide significant permanent employment opportunities. Our own estimates based on known available biomass resources suggest this figure to be 4,000-8,000 new jobs Statewide.
5. The technology to achieve this is available now; please see the photo below of a successful demonstration in June this year of our own system operating on the lawns of Parliament House Canberra.



Thank you for your consideration.

Peter & Kerry Davies
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