



4-Mar-17



Forest Carbon Strategy – presented to NPA (NSW) State Council meeting in Newcastle

20-Year Regional Forest Agreements (RFAs) on the GER stretch from the NSW North Coast (including proposed *Great Koala National Parks*) all the way down to Victoria's planned *Great Forest NP* of Mountain Ash near Melbourne. The *Australian Institute* and NPA's Dr. Oisín Sweeney published critical *NSW RFA Reports* in 2016. A '*NoWayRFA*' campaign group was convened in Melbourne today. For *Gippsland*, governments have extended the oldest *RFA* by a year to Feb 2018.

The '*Alps-to-Sea*' World Heritage **VISION** with Bob Debus' GER connects 3 regions:

- A. Australian Alps NPs (NSW/VIC/ACT 2008 National Heritage Listing) plus Alpine State Forests
- B. Gippsland Forest .. first connect new 2017 VIC Gov. NPs - endorsed by VNPA, ACF and TWS
- C. South Coast Forest (Nowra to VIC border) .. connect/protect **Jobs, Wildlife & Carbon Credits**

Federally-funded Wilderness Coast National Landscapes **Tourism** also connects Gippsland & NSW.

On 9-Sep-16 the Victorian Premier announced its *Forest Industry Taskforce 2017* recommendation will include "**Methods for valuing carbon in native forests**". In 2016, the NSW Premier also released its brief '*Forest Industry Roadmap*' stating "**Government wants carbon benefits from forest management ... so carbon credit revenue can fund the management of NSW forests**".

International pressure mounts on the Australian Government's '*2017 Review of Climate Change Policies*', including 'Land Sector/Forests' and setting post-2020 Targets! Bilateral *RFAs* make the AG accountable to avoid State Forest emissions from native forest logging, burning and wood-chipping.

AG 'Consultation Papers' will be released in March; 'Submissions' sought in April; and consultation commences at the annual Carbon Market Summit 1-3 May in Melbourne (who else is attending?).

We can start by valuing avoidance of Government-RFA emissions from logging, burning & wood-chipping as **100-Year State Forest Carbon Credits = \$20M+ opportunity to fund Regional Jobs!** Australia's **hollows-dependent Threatened Species** need 100-Year Forest Carbon sequestration.

Lobbying in Jun-Aug 2017 helps shape the AG 'assessments' and 'recommendations'. Australia's '*post-Paris Review*' will be completed by October to enable international scrutiny in the lead-up to the *Conference-of-Parties*. We expect *COP* 'outcomes' to improve *Honest Forest Carbon Accounting*, ruling out 'carbon neutral' and 'clean energy' certification based on logs sourced from mature forests.

Native forests logged under "*pre-Carbon RFAs*" is just one "*low hanging fruit*" amongst Australia's emission reduction opportunities. Experts say a Carbon '*Method*' for State Forests is a "*no brainer*"! Eucalypt forests are most carbon dense, attracting global concerns about '*RFA Forest Degradation*'.

'Great Southern Forest' groups in Bermagui 4-Feb-17 suggested '**no up-front reserves proposals**'; instead start work cooperatively with Governments on *Carbon Credits* across all native State Forests. 3 options include AG *Emissions Reduction Fund (ERF)*, *Gold and Verified Carbon Standards (VCS)*. **100-Year Carbon Credit** agreements include a range of protected area and management options:

L to R: Mike Thompson, Sean Burke, Grahame Douglas, Harriett Swift, Heather O'Connor, Ro Beaumont, Kim Taysom, Paul Payten, Dave Gallan, Bronte Somerset

