

Submission on Climate Change in WA 2019.

1. Emissions intensity in Resources industry:

1. Use water from Iron Ore mine dewatering to grow silage (can be cropped multiple times per year in Pilbara climate and convert into biodiesel for use in the mining industry. This could be done in conjunction with an Aboriginal Company to provide indigenous employment and training
2. Build a Concentrated Solar Thermal plant in Port Hedland or some proximity to BHP/FMG/Roy Hill/Riot Tinto/Boodarie HV transmission lines in an industry partnership to allow the mining industry access to baseload renewable energy they cannot afford on their own.

2. Energy in transport

There was a missed opportunity when PTA announced the purchase of 900 diesel powered buses earlier this year. These should have been electric powered.

3. Baseload renewable energy

1. The government has still not introduced any renewable baseload power into the SWIS. Concentrated Solar Thermal power stations can provide this. The first one should be at Collie to use the existing workforce there and perhaps even the steam turbines and other infrastructure that already exists there.
2. Household batteries. Household batteries in conjunction with rooftop solar can provide additional local grid power to provide peak power in the evenings. This can also help stabilise the grid. Subsidising household battery installations also means the government does not have to provide facilities and maintenance of the capacity as it will be cared for and maintained by the householder on his premises.

4. Liveable Towns and Cities

Reports indicate that greening cities and suburbs can reduce temperatures by several degrees due to reducing the heat sink effect. Tree structures also trap particulate emissions from vehicle fumes and are pleasant to look at.

5. Green Walls

There is a significant Great Green Wall project across North Africa. Already over 30 million hectares of trees have been planted with significant environmental impacts achieved. Cropping land is bare from harvest in November until it is green again in May, so for 6 months of the year it is a baking hot desert over summer and subsoil moisture is lost and salinity rises. We are now left with a few roadside trees which councils are doing their best to remove (often illegally) and the occasional small nature reserve.

Since colonisation the South West of Western Australia has had 100 million hectares, the majority of its forest and woodlands, cleared for agriculture which has had a significant impact on rainfall, salinity and biodiversity. WA needs to create "Green Walls" or corridors across the landscape. There is a significant proportion of farmland that is now unproductive or marginal. A massive tree planting project should be undertaken to reverse the local climate change effects of deforestation. Research the Gondwanalink Project to see what private citizens are trying to do. Green belts woodland corridors could be created to link the coast to the inland woodlands. EG Jurien Bay to Wubin, Lancelin to Beacon, Brookton to Hyden, Wagin to Lake King. These projects require relatively low skilled labour, could involve indigenous corporations.

I could write much more but this opportunity only became known to me today, 29-Nov.

I look forward to the state government taking on this challenge and making the state a better place to live.

Regards,

Paul Winthrop.