

**GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS — CARBON DRAWDOWN**

*Statement*

**HON DIANE EVERS (South West)** [6.28 pm]: I would like to commend my colleague Hon Colin Tincknell for picking up this issue that we should be debating. I look forward to further interactions on this terrible issue of homelessness. It has been known for some years that the easiest way to tackle homelessness is by giving these people a home, and I hope we get to that point one day.

What I would like to do is finish the statement I was making yesterday about gas emissions and the climate. I was a bit abrupt yesterday. What I really wanted to say was about carbon drawdown. I know that we spew out a lot of emissions. I know that we are addicted to energy. It is happening. We are not transitioning as quickly as we might be able to should we put our minds and our dollars to it. But drawing down carbon is something that we can do now, even while we continue to emit large quantities of it. The website I referred to briefly was [www.drawdown.org](http://www.drawdown.org). A book has been put out as well. It has the top 100 methods that we can use to draw some of the carbon out of the atmosphere. We can advance on this from today. If members plant a tree tomorrow, they would be helping. There is a lot more that can be done, but there are just three things that I want to talk about that will draw down this carbon. One is kelp, one is the soil in our agricultural areas and one is our forests. I do not know a lot about kelp, but a lot of people are talking about it. We could encourage the growing of kelp in our oceans, because the kelp would take a lot of the carbon out of the atmosphere and it would then fall to the ocean floor where, because of the cold down there, it would not decompose as quickly. It would be able to get a lot of carbon out of the atmosphere very quickly.

The next method is to do with soil and regenerative agriculture. I understand that Hon Jim Chown mentioned this in an interview not that long ago. The word is getting out there that regenerative agriculture is a movement that farmers are picking up, and they are doing it without using that term. I do not mind if they do not use the term. They do not have to be called regenerative agriculturalists; they can just be called agriculturalists, because that is what it is—it is agriculture. It is what we have been doing for millennia. It is just that we have had this little blip in the system and we have started adding chemicals to our soil that have killed off a lot of the microbiome of the soil. With agriculture, we could absorb a lot more carbon than we do now and hold it in the soil. It would help not only the climate, but also the soil and the plants that we grow. It is not too difficult. There is a lot of information on the website. I urge all members to learn a little more about this, because it is good for not only the climate and the farmers, but also our own health. We get dense nutrition in well-grown food, without the chemical additives and the residual chemicals left on the surface of vegetables, fruit and meat. I urge members to look at it.

The last method is to do with the forests. This is what the Greens have been known for for so long and we are still onto this. I tell my friends who are fighting to maintain our forests that they will never be able to stop. It is something that we will always have to do to try to hold onto the green in our world. Research shows that the forests, even the old forests, are the best at drawing down carbon. We might not think so, because it does not seem as though they grow that much each year, but they do. They are growing and putting the carbon into the soil and into the roots, and that helps our climate as well. We need to not only maintain our forests, but also create many more plantations. It is also about keeping trees in our urban environments. I plead with members to urge any local governments that they are involved with in their regions to hold onto those green spaces and the street trees. It is easily shown in many places. It came out just the other day that in Parramatta in New South Wales, there is a 10 degree difference from one street to another—they are not even a kilometre apart—purely because of the green space and the trees that shade the footpath and hold onto the cooler air and keep the temperature down. There are so many things we can do.

**Hon Colin Tincknell** interjected.

**Hon DIANE EVERS:** That is right; there are so many benefits from this. It is not difficult, but we will have to act unitedly to make sure that we hold onto these green spaces and our forests, that we develop more plantations, that we encourage regenerative agriculture and that we look into kelp.