



23 May 2013

Sustain Northern Rivers  
PO Box 146  
Lismore NSW 2480

To Whom It May Concern,

**Regarding: Biochar Project Australia Action On The Ground Funding Application**

I am writing on behalf of Sustain Northern Rivers in support of the Biochar Project Australia application for Round 2 of Action On The Ground funding for 2013.

Sustain Northern Rivers is a network of 27 peak regional organisations committed to working together for regional action on climate change. The network is split in to three working groups covering the areas of Food, Energy and Transport. Membership includes Local Councils, State Departments (Trade & Investment, Department of Primary Industries, Office of Environment & Heritage, Department of Education and Training), Southern Cross University, North Coast TAFE, Regional Development Australia, Northern Rivers Social Development Council and the Far North Coast Regional Group of the Local Community Services Association.

This project will simultaneously improve the viability of farming and reduce its environmental impact in the Northern Rivers region, and aligns directly with the Sustain Food Working Group goal, which is to *increase local food consumption and uptake of sustainable food production methods*.

Farmers in this region face significant challenges in the areas of succession planning, soil degradation, the reduction of crop yields, the increase in input costs, the reduction in transport and distribution costs and a lack of access to skilled labour. This project enables farmers to implement farming methods which support their soil health, reduce farm costs, improve crop yield and quality, support the environment and mentor young farmers.

It is a project that is essential for our region and builds on the demonstrated success of Biochar Project Australia to date.

Please contact me if you would like further information.

Kind Regards,

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**Sustain Northern Rivers**

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**Be green read it on the screen**