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Dear Professor Newman,

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to write this submission to you regarding the **salinity** problem in the Wheatbelt.

I am a 19 year old student at Murdoch TAFE currently studying Certificate IV of Land Management. I lived in the Wheatbelt most of my life watching acres of good farming land and native flora and fauna just disappear because of the alarmingly fast growing **salinity** problem that is taking over the Wheatbelt.

I have been part of many tree planting exercises through out the Great Southern so I know that people are trying to help fix the problem but that is not enough. Farmers need more of an incentive to plant trees on their farms because with out one they just aren't going to give up their land to plant trees on. Most farmers don't want to give out money or plant trees on their properties for an issue that they are to ignorant to realize that its happening to them until it is too late. The only incentive that farmers react to is a cash incentive. But that is hardly a valid way of doing it so I think that the best way of going about it is by the government buying back a certain percentage of the Wheatbelt in scattered areas to plant trees on. There also has to be a better public awareness on the **salinity** problem that will effect our whole country if we do not start to take it more seriously. We can do this by fund raising which can help pay for commercials that will help to provide better public awareness.

If **salinity** in the Wheatbelt continues to grow the way that it is, not only will we lose our farms that keep our country growing but we will also lose our native flora and fauna that brings tourism to Australia. Without these we really don't have much else as far as world trading is concerned. The chain reaction continues to get worse and worse all the time because not enough is being done about **salinity** on todays farms.

I don't think that we will be able to solve the problem in the near future of turning **salinity** effected areas back into usable farming soil, but I do believe that we could stop it from getting worse.

Regards,

Michael Hegarty