

Letters

Don't buy land, just help the environment

I read in The Weekly Times about the NSW land acquisitions of Woodside and German insurance company Munich Re in the Heytesbury area ("Mass buy-up revolt", July 24).

Wouldn't it be great if these multinationals were to decide to invest in carbon capture initiatives by working with farming communities instead of disrupting them by simply buying land.

In Woodside's case, they could instead invest the millions being spent buying land into Landcare, so that tree planting and environmental enhancement was done in partnership with farmers and local communities.

Investing some of the massive untaxed profits they are making exporting Australia's methane could also be invested in the shift to bioenergy and green hydrogen.

Perhaps they could take a look at what Maersk is planning near Launceston in starting methanol production for greening of transportation fuel – also useful for reducing dependence on diesel for farm machinery.

Likewise, Munich Re.

Wouldn't they achieve a better long-term result if instead their sustainable forestry plans were partnerships with farm forestry initiatives brok-



Olympic Games fever has reached Narrabri in NSW with Kieran Shephard carving out the Olympic rings in a canola crop, on farmland owned by the University of Sydney, in support of the Australian team, including local boxer Shannan Davey and rower Laura Gourley. Currently green, the canola is expected to be yellow by the time of the closing ceremony in Paris. Picture: Kieran Shephard.

Chris Rule is on leave.

ered through Landcare and communities?

Higher-rainfall regions are well suited to farm-based agroforestry, where existing roads, pasture and cropping areas provide better fire management opportunity.

Landholders could receive agistment payments for the trees and nearby sawmilling would enable local employment supplying high-value wood products.

Land ownership and control probably suit company balance sheets better, but the non-monetary gains from community partnerships would provide much better long-term gains for both parties.

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