

Subject: Revised submission to the Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications - IT IS TIME FOR ACTION

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
PO Box 6100
Parliament house
Canberra ACT 0600

22nd January 2013

Dear Committee Secretary

Preparedness for Extreme Weather Events as a result of Climate Change

The submission that I set out below replaces (as indicated in my telephone call to the SSC offices yesterday) the preliminary submission which I made and was sent to you on Friday 18th January.

IT IS TIME FOR ACTION

History indicates that successful responses to crises tend to involve urgent and dramatic actions rather than slower, steady ones. With Australia on fire, oceans and temperature raising this must be the time to act.

Just today in the United States, President Barack Obama has used his second (and final) inauguration speech to commit his government to finally taking action on climate change.

In an about turn from his election campaign, and public statements for much of the past 12 months, Obama made climate change – and gay equality – the centrepieces of his speech to the nation. He said:

“We, the people, still believe that our obligations as Americans are not just to ourselves, but to all posterity,” he said “We will respond to the threat of climate change, knowing that the failure to do so would betray our children and future generations.

“Some may still deny the overwhelming judgment of science, but none can avoid the devastating impact of raging fires, and crippling drought, and more powerful storms. The path towards sustainable energy sources will be long and sometimes difficult. But America cannot resist this transition. We must lead it.

“We cannot cede to other nations the technology that will power new jobs and new industries. We must claim its promise. That’s how we will maintain our economic vitality and our national treasure, our forests and waterways, our crop lands and snow-capped peaks. That is how we will preserve our planet, commanded to our care by God. That’s what will lend meaning to the creed our fathers once declared.”

And this week I heard at least 3 references to a possible six degree temperature rise by the end of this century. It is no longer 2 degrees because we will soon pass this level whatever we do

now and from there to 4 degrees will be difficult to stop even if we halt the burning coal tomorrow everywhere, but 6 degrees will decimate human life as we know it. Most of us will die with just a few pockets of life remaining.

To address this dire situation we must move to a **'War' type footing** regardless of cost. We are talking here of survival measures.

The types of action I have in mind must be achieved in 5 year segments. The second and any subsequent segments will be prepared in 2017 and submitted in the course of that year.

The first segment is for 2013 and onwards and must include:

- Reduce net forest removal in Australia and encourage the same across the world including tropical deforestation by 50%.
- Close down 5,000 of the world's dirtiest coal-power stations to cut the greenhouse gas emissions.
- Stop all coal exports from Australia.
- Stop all CSG mining in Australia.
- Promote the building of 10,000 solar thermal energy power stations across the world with 50 of them built in Australia.
- Every commercial building in Australia to have solar PV on its roof.
- All non-productive land to be covered and used to produce energy through solar PV's.
- Link the vast quantities of Australian geothermal energy to the grid within two years. There is sufficient geothermal energy here in Australia to power the country for hundreds of years.
- Erect wind turbines in and around every town. We must not concern ourselves, sad that it is, with the bird life for most will die if temperatures reach another six degrees anyway.
- Remove all old cars from the roads and ration fuel usage to 20 litres a month.
- All new cars to be designed and built to have battery powered capability.
- Think globally but produce locally to become the key Australian slogan.
- Market gardening to be supported in every town and village in Australia to dramatically reduce the journey from 'farm to plate'.
- The energy used to produce grains for cattle and meat consumption must stop. Move society towards a vegetarian diet.
- Introduce agricultural methods that reduce greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture and maximise soil carbon.

I will be pleased to visit Canberra and discuss each of these proposed points of actions before the Committee, should this submission be accepted for consideration.

I await your response.

Yours faithfully

PETER FOSTER-BUNCH