



Submission:

Inquiry into the Clean Energy Legislation (Carbon Tax Repeal) Bill 2013 and related bills

To the Standing Committee on Environment and Communication,

Thank you for your invitation to the Australian Youth Climate Coalition (AYCC) to write a submission to the **Inquiry into the Clean Energy Legislation (Carbon Tax Repeal) Bill 2013 and related bills**.

The AYCC represents 100, 000 young Australians concerned about the impacts that climate change will have on our future. As the most severe impacts of climate change will be felt over time, it is younger generations who bear the greatest burden of the consequence of our current action or inaction on climate change.

Climate change is impacting Australia, especially South-east Australia now. We have just experienced the hottest Spring on record, and the earliest bushfire season. Climate science reveals South-east Australia as a 'climate change hot spot'. The Australian Climate Change Authority has found that the world has a budget of only 1,100 GT carbon dioxide equivalent left to burn if we have a chance of remaining below 2 degrees of climate change¹. We cannot afford to delay deep cuts to our emissions any longer.

The Clean Energy Package contributed to a 7% reduction in Australia's energy emissions intensity in just 12 months². As such it is effectively tackling Australia's emissions. Though faster, deeper cuts to our emissions are required, the Clean Energy Package is a first step.

¹ Australian Climate Change Authority (2013), *Reducing Australia's Greenhouse Gas Emissions: Targets and Progress Review Draft Report*. [Online] climatechangeauthority.gov.au/Node/100

² Riesz, J and Dargaville, R (2013), *Is Carbon Pricing Reducing Emissions?* [Online] theconversation.com/is-carbon-pricing-reducing-emissions-15562



Clean Energy Legislation (Carbon Tax Repeal) Bill 2013

In light of the seriousness of climate change, it would be irresponsible to repeal Australia's only climate change policy without a credible alternative in place.

This repeal bill would leave Australia without any legal framework to reduce Australia's greenhouse emissions, at a time when the global community is working to keep global emissions such that climate change is kept within 2 degrees of warming.

Though this inquiry does not directly deal with legislation for the Government's Direct Action plan, it is relevant to the repeal bills, as it is crucial that Australia has some climate change policy in place. The Direct Action plan has been shown by independent reports to be expensive, and unlikely to reach even a 5% emissions reduction target. If this is the only alternative to the Clean Energy Package, it is not a credible policy that will tackle climate change in line with scientific evidence.

The Clean Energy Legislation (Carbon Tax Repeal) Bill 2013 should be set aside until a credible climate change policy has been established.

Credible climate change policy should:

- Ensure Australia reduces its emissions 50% by 2020;
- Move Australia beyond fossil fuels, and;
- Stimulate a transition to 100% renewable energy within 10 years.

Climate Change Authority (Abolition) Bill 2013

The abolition of the Climate Change Authority would leave Australia without an independent body able to advise the Australian public and Government on how swiftly we should reduce our emissions in line with a safe climate.

This undermines the Government's ability to make informed policy on climate change, and reduces the transparency and independence of climate change analysis expected by the Australian public.



The solution put forward in this bill, namely periodic reviews conducted at the initiative of the Minister, leaves climate change policy open to political timelines. With a problem this complex and serious, an independent body is required to ensure Australian society is informed and acting within our long term interest.

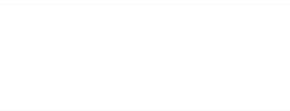
Clean Energy Finance Corporation (Abolition) Bill

The abolition of the Clean Energy Finance Corporation would undermine crucial efforts to foster the solution to climate change and greenhouse emissions: renewable energy.

The CEFC can enable new technologies to get into the market such as solar thermal with storage. This diversifies the renewable energy space with technologies that would not be completed with just the Renewable Energy Target scheme.

The CEFC has been working. Its work so far has been providing carbon abatement at negative cost to the government. Australia needs to be shifting to renewable energy as quickly as possible and one barrier is the ability of renewables to obtain finance. The CEFC is able to play this role.

Thank you,
Kirsty Albion



Co-Director
Australian Youth Climate Coalition