

Joint Standing Committee on Treaties
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Committee,

SUBMISSION RELATED TO THE PARIS AGREEMENT

It is inconceivable why Australia is debating ratification of the Paris Agreement, and the undersigned enthusiastically support immediate ratification based on the following:

- A. March 1994, Australia joined 196 countries in ratifying the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and formally adopted a shared goal of preventing “dangerous” human interference with the climate system.
- B. Australia endorsed the Kyoto Protocol in December 2008 after negotiating to degrade its commitment to -5%, but nevertheless, agreed to an internationally binding and enduring promise to reduce emissions.
- C. In 2011 the Gillard government introduced an emissions trading scheme (ETS) to ensure Australia does not breach the Kyoto commitment.
- D. ETS, repealed July 2014, was replaced by Direct Action. This policy will deliver verifiable emission reductions of 51 million tonnes by 2020, which violates Kyoto’s -5% promise of 193m tonne by a significant 85m tonnes.
- E. In March 2016, Minister Hunt signed the Paris Agreement knowing Direct Action policy would fail to deliver -5% reductions, but nonetheless further fortified Australia’s written commitment to a weak, but binding -5% reduction.
- F. 27 countries, including USA and China, have ratified the Paris Agreement, but 28 more countries are required before it becomes operational.
- G. As the world’s 13th-largest greenhouse emitter (and the highest per capita emitter in the OECD), Australia has a domestic and international responsibility to implement the emission reductions it promised.
- H. Exposure of the Government’s failed policies, and the Abbott/Turnbull Government’s malfeasance of breaching environmental contracts with UNFCC will occur in 4 years (2020).
- I. Australia’s failure to ratify Paris Agreement is confession of Government’s disregard for covenants, it’s nationalistic contempt for Global agendas, and foreshadows Australia’s abandoning UNFCC, whose goals it scorns.
- J. Or, as we suggest; Government could avoid the embarrassment of revealed deceptions by immediately ratifying the Paris Agreement, and commencing genuine emission reductions.

Thank you,

Morris Lyda

Fiona H. Spence-Lyda