

Inquiry: The Climate Change (National Framework for Adaptation and Mitigation) Bill 2020
and Climate Change (National Framework for Adaptation and Mitigation) (Consequential
and Transitional Provisions) Bill 2020

Submission by Linda Beatrice Groom

My personal experience of climate change

Over the 70 years of my life I have witnessed a number of effects of a slowly warming climate, including shorter snow seasons in the Australian Alps, shrinking glaciers in New Zealand and the arrival of grey headed flying foxes in urban Canberra. I have noted news reports of beach-side houses being undermined by rising sea levels.

My understanding of climate change

I accept the scientific studies that say that climate change is induced by humans, irreversible, but can be mitigated. I accept the report of the recent Bushfire Royal Commission that the 2019/2020 fires were made worse by climate change.

What I would like the Australian government to do

- Commit to an emissions reduction target. A legislated target will drive climate change mitigation through successive governments. A net target of zero by 2050, with 5 yearly interim targets, should be the minimum target
- Phase out all subsidies and infrastructure support for high-emission sources of energy such as coal and gas; provide financial incentives for low-emission sources of energy such as wind and solar; fund improvements in storage and distribution of energy so that wind and solar energy can provide reliability; stop the Adani project
- Support the export of low-emission energy to other countries; investigate supply of energy by cable to Indonesia
- Assist people displaced from employment by reduced production of high-emission energy fuels
- Increase protection of national parks and reserves, recognizing their function as carbon sinks and as refuges for threatened species being affected by climate change; save the corroboree frog
- Establish an Independent Climate Change Commission. Whichever political party you currently support, think of a Climate Change Commission as a way of ensuring sanity and science prevail during the period when the parties that you do not support will be in power. Dealing with climate change is a decades-long project; Australia people, businesses and farmers will suffer if government policy on climate action changes every four years.

My personal commitment

I DO NOT MIND IF MY POWER BILLS INCREASE BECAUSE OF ACTION TO MITIGATE CLIMATE CHANGE

I will continue to maintain the solar panels on my roof, and to conserve energy in my daily life

My next car will be an electric car.