

10 November, 2016

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

RE: Submission to Inquiry into retirement of coal fired power stations

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications Inquiry into retirement of coal fired power stations.

Environment Victoria is one of Australia's leading independent environment groups. With over 40 member groups and tens of thousands of individual supporters, we've been representing Victorian communities on environmental matters for over 40 years.

Our attached submission calls for the development of a coherent national plan to support the orderly phase-out of Australia's coal fired power stations and a rapid transition to renewable energy. Coal generators are the largest single source of climate pollution in Australia, and the rate of phase-out should be informed by the extremely limited carbon budget that remains to avoid the worst impacts of global warming.

Actively managing the orderly phase-out of coal-fired electricity will:

- Deliver better emission reduction outcomes;
- Encourage investment in new clean energy capacity and new jobs;
- Provide more certainty to communities near coal power stations; and
- Create a context in which it is seen as acceptable for governments to acknowledge that job losses are coming in the coal industry, and to commit significant resources to mitigate the consequences of those job losses.

While this will be a challenging process, it is far preferable to not planning, which would result in enormous uncertainty and worse outcomes for communities, energy markets, renewable energy investors and the climate.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission to the Inquiry. We would be happy to provide any further information to support the work of the Committee.

Regards,

Nicholas Aberle
Campaigns Manager

