

To Senators on the Senate Select Committee on Climate Policy,

My chief concerns with the CPRS are as follows:

1. The target is unacceptably weak
2. Polluters are over-compensated
3. The emphasis of the Government's approach to reducing emissions needs to shift significantly and expand. Inadequate emphasis is being given to the role that consumers - that is, the whole community - must play if emissions are to be reduced. People, if interested at all at the moment, are now likely to be thinking that their own actions to reduce emissions will deliver credits to polluting industry.

What is not widely discussed or promoted is the huge power that individuals and businesses of all types have to determine what and by what means industry is producing goods. A truly eco-savvy community would be strongly influencing emissions right now by demanding products and services that are energy- and water-saving and refusing to support products and services that are unsustainable through the impact they have on the quality of air, soil and water. 'Business as usual' is no longer an option, and yet it is largely what the current plans for the CPRS are supporting by not going far enough and not being coupled with strong leadership to the community to embrace and adapt to a low-carbon short and longer term future.

Among the other measures that the federal government can use are a mandatory renewable energy target, a renewable energy feed-in tariff, energy efficiency standards for homes and commercial buildings, fuel efficiency standards and investment in trains, buses and trams. Ending the logging of Australia's native forests would reduce Australia's emissions by substantially more than 5%.

I urge this government, elected on its promises of climate change action, to follow through.

Anne Pettit

- Resourced - Meeting needs with the Earth in mind.