

To Senators on the Senate Select Committee on Climate Policy,

Whilst emissions trading could in principle lower emissions, the proposed CPRS is likely to have either no effect or a negative effect because:

- the target is far below the 25-40% cut which is almost universally accepted by scientists as what is needed to avert catastrophic climate change, and
- the huge compensations for polluters means that they have little incentive to reduce emissions, and the renewable energy industries will continue to be unfairly handicapped.
- the emissions from our huge coal exports are not considered.

The Labor government's convincing win in the last election, and the unseating of Howard in his own electorate, gave Labor the clear mandate from the electorate to start to transition Australia to a low carbon future. Instead, Labor seems more intent on placating the energy industries and the Opposition Liberal party than in doing what is needed to save humanity from inestimable suffering and other species on this planet from extinction.

This is a critical time in human history, Australia needs to have the courage to lead by example. A 5-15% cut simply says that we, a rich country and a massive polluter per head of population, are not prepared to do our part. What chance have we got of convincing other countries to make the cuts needed if we won't?

Lindsay Peters