

To Senators on the Senate Select Committee on Climate Policy,

Perhaps because of the promise of courage in tackling climate change I have been deeply disappointed in the federal governments lack of determination in its climate policy efforts. This especially includes the proposed carbon-trading scheme.

Few everyday citizens properly understand this new and complex concept. I have been a strong believer in the cumulative power of everyone contributing towards an improved climate outcome by changes in their everyday decisions. I am appalled to realise that, because there is an overall carbon reduction target, the efforts in lifestyle change made by me and other concerned citizens and businesses allows big polluters to continue carbon polluting. In addition, they are compensated handsomely for continuing with business just about as usual.

I am not a scientist and can only base my beliefs on the weight of scientific opinion, and there is no doubt that the consensus is that our children and grandchildren face dire consequences if we do not act immediately and decisively on climate change. There is clear evidence that across the spectrum of political orientation there is concern about climate change and support for action. The proposed carbon-trading scheme is not only a betrayal of people's efforts to respond to the issue but an abnegation of the government's responsibility to lead the way in this. There are effective strategies that we can use and are willing and waiting to adopt if only we have the leadership to go there. Why must governments of all persuasion be constantly intimidated by the powerful interest groups invested in the status quo?

I do not agree with the proposed carbon-trading scheme as currently configured and would like to see immediate effort in educating the community on the issues involved so that meaningful contributions and decision making by the community at large can be made.

Name: Margaret Deans