

To Senators on the Senate Select Committee on Climate Policy,

Thank you for allowing me to comment on the CPRS - I wrote to Mr Rudd in December outlining my horror and dismay at the scheme but did not receive a reply.

I am still reeling from the shock and sense of betrayal at the inadequacy and futility of the scheme in the face of the enormous threat of climate change. The scheme in it's current form is the worst possible outcome in every possible way, and is much worse than having no scheme at all.

Last year (before the CPRS was finalised) I spent \$17,000 on a grid-connected solar system for my house and now export more power than I use - I have cut my greenhouse emissions to less than nothing and it was ridiculously easy.

Now it emerges that my investment in reducing emissions will mean polluters will pay less for the right to keep polluting, but worst of all is the fact that no matter what I do I cannot help to reduce Australia's total emissions any more than a measly (and ultimately deadly for all of us) 5%. Penny Wong is trying to say that voluntary actions will make a difference but the Victorian State government has just received a report from it's own advisers saying it should not spend any more money on renewable power because it will make no difference to our total emissions! (The Age 23/3) Local councils are realising there is nothing they can do to help reduce emissions. Everyone is in shock. The whole thing is like a very un-funny episode of Fawlty Towers.

My mother was so impressed by my solar power she wants to install a system herself but I have had to tell her that it would be a waste of her money! Never in my worst nightmares could I have dreamt up such a depressing and demoralising scenario. There are so many people taking positive steps towards reducing emissions but this is going to stop them in their tracks! You've got to hand it to politicians - just when you think they couldn't get any worse, they come up with this! It makes me ashamed to be Australian and I feel like packing up and moving to Denmark where it's a lot more civilised. Now Penny is in the US helping them with their own scheme - God help us!

The Senate HAS to stop this idiotic scheme from getting into legislation. The scheme must be changed to allow for EXTRA reductions coming from voluntary actions over and above any target set. The Climate Institute has already come up with options for doing this. At the VERY LEAST the scheme needs to have a tougher target AND must be much more flexible in terms of time frames so that targets can be altered quickly to respond to the latest scientific information. Anything less is a total abrogation of responsibility and a total betrayal of not only future generations but of the future of everyone alive now.

Climate change has just incinerated 210 people in Victoria along with millions of animals and killed countless more people in the recent heatwaves, and this is after less than 1 degree of global warming. The scientists who held an EMERGENCY meeting in Copenhagen this month are now predicting 7 degrees (!!!!!) of warming by 2100 but there has been no comment from Rudd or Wong. What does it take for you people to WAKE UP! Nature is not interested in going along with our timelines or fitting in with our economic cycles - the laws of physics can not be negotiated with! Nature will squash us like bugs and not bat an eyelid!

The worst part is that the delays have nothing to do with a lack of technology - we are being forced to continue with stone-age energy sources because of lobbying by vested interests. It's the equivalent of telling Bill Gates he can't invent computers because it would cost jobs in the typewriter industry!

No amount of money, privilege or arrogance is going to protect you from the consequences of pussy-footing around with this - there will be nowhere to hide.

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