

Please take the following points seriously as our country and planet are in serious danger. The Government's Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS) is too little and too slow. The target of 5% is far too low, and the over-compensation of polluters, especially large scale polluters, will be detrimental to Australia's environment and communities.

1. Scientists agree that developed countries like Australia need to reduce their emissions by between 25 and 40 per cent by 2020 if we are to slow down and turn around the current rapid impacts of climate change. Some of our treasures, such as the Great Barrier Reef and Kakadu, are already at risk.
2. The concept of paying Australia's worst polluters with billions of dollars of compensation in cash and free permits to pollute, protects their profits and does little to encourage the development of renewable, clean industries. It also unfairly transfers the cost of reducing emissions to industries with less lobbying power and to the community at large. Every dollar of compensation that goes to polluters is a dollar less to assist householders and renewable industries.
3. Not enough development of renewable industries is emphasised in the scheme proposed by the government. These industries include, solar (eg. solar panels on all new buildings, as well as retrofitting older ones), wind farms, wave energy which has been estimated to be able to provide 35% of our energy needs, research and development into innovative air conditioning technology etc. This is the only realistic way we can avoid the worsening effects of climate change, by really reducing carbon pollution. Clean coal is a misnomer.
4. The community needs to be encouraged to undertake carbon reduction strategies and valued for doing so, eg. by being reimbursed financially for their contributions to the electricity grid through installing solar panels. This is the case in Germany.
5. This emissions trading scheme is just one of the tools the federal government can use to reduce Australia's greenhouse gas emissions. But there are others, such as 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%. All these policies should be pursued regardless of the CPRS.

We need to act now if we are to honour the fears of our children and children's children. Every day on the news there are more reports of the effects of climate change, there is massive scientific evidence to support the need for rapid and large scale responses. This government's emissions trading scheme is not good enough for now or for future generations and, unless something is done to greatly improve the scheme, the responsibility of the crises to come will be on your shoulders.

Please take this seriously, for the sake of the planet and its communities.

Regards
Erst Carmichael