

To Senators on the Senate Select Committee on Climate Policy,

Emissions trading is one of many important tools the government can use to reduce Australia's emissions. By setting a strong target and sending a price signal to the market, a well-designed scheme should help dramatically reduce Australia's emissions at the least cost to the economy and make sure Australia does its fair share to tackle climate change.

However, a badly designed emissions trading scheme will prevent the economic transformation Australia needs, at a cost to both the economy and the environment.

I agree with the Greens Position and with Guy Pearce's evaluation. The government has essentially been captured by the coal and oil lobby. We need to phase coal out and achieve 100% renewable by 2020 as suggested by Al Gore. Even if this is a bit utopian we need to achieve radical efficiencies but the current policy effectively prevents that. Clean coal is not a serious option. One key option that is not getting serious backing is pumping CO2 through algae in transparent tubing exposed to the sun to create oil. Sequestering CO2 is just nonsense. At the very least the target for reductions must be much higher and the tax on carbon however administered should be spent on developing efficiency and renewables not on compensating the polluters. The suggested plan will lead to any reduction of emissions and effectively makes it uneconomic to pursue alternatives.

Name: David Turnbull