

To Senators on the Senate Select Committee on Climate Policy,

I am in basic agreement with the views being put forward by many, including the Greens, that the Government's current proposed CPRS is totally inadequate, and only a component of what is needed to be done by Australians.

In particular, we need to recognise that the technologies already exist to totally change the way in which Australia generates and conserves energy. What is lacking is the collective will and leadership to bring these to bear. Australia possesses a huge potential biomass resource which could meet our current energy needs many times over.

We as individuals can, of course, make a contribution at a personal and domestic level. We have retrofitted our house with insulation, door and window seals, have installed a solar hot water system and installed 4.2kw of solar photo-voltaic panels. We recycle grey water, and so on.

We can individually and collectively also change practices in our work and recreation places. We cannot, however, as individuals build geo-thermal power stations and retrain coal mining personnel to be able to work there. We cannot, as individuals, build solar concentrator power stations in regional Australia and thus also generate regional employment. We cannot, as individuals, build wind farms or construct wave power generators around the southern coast of Australia.

The Federal Government, in partnership, with the other levels of government can - using our tax dollars.

Bearing in mind that our urban environments contribute by far the greatest CO2 load to our planet, We also need leadership from government to ensure that the planning, development and building codes insist on sustainable design and construction. The Federal Government should give notice that it will cease to fund university professional courses such as architecture, building, engineering, etc that do not have substantial components dealing with sustainability. Similarly, the Federal Government should use its persuasive power to encourage the other two levels of government to support and encourage city farms for food production.

Lets ensure that the huge quantities of timber that is simply burnt or left to rot, is instead buried - dare I suggest in disused coal mines?

There are so many initiatives that the Federal Government can take to turn our energy misuse around NOW, and have Australia considering itself a land of abundance again.

The willingness is here in the community, and particularly in our young people. Lets create a great 'game' for us all to play - making Australia totally sustainable.

William McDonagh, the inspirational anticipatory designer and author of Cradle to Cradle put it so aptly:

"Ask: How can we support and perpetuate the rights of all living things to share in a world of abundance? How can we love the children of all species - not just our own - for all time? Imagine what a world of prosperity and health in the future will look like, and begin designing for it right now. What would it mean to become, once again, native to this place, the Earth - the home of all our relations? This is going to take us all, and it is going to take forever. But then, that's the point."

I wish you well in your deliberations.
Sincerely

JohnT D Wood