

To Senators on the Senate Select Committee on Climate Policy,

Current proposals for the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme are so weak & flawed as to be virtually useless, probably a waste of time & effort, and an insult & disappointment to citizens genuinely concerned about climate change.

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 GENUINE 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.

As it stands, the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS) proposed by the Government includes an unacceptably weak target, and a design which over-compensates polluters at the expense of the community and environment.

The CPRS target to reduce Australia's carbon emissions to 5% below 2000 levels by 2020, if followed by the rest of the world, is a recipe for climate catastrophe. Far from the stated Rudd Government's goal of seeing global atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases stabilise at 450 parts per million, it will send the world past 550 ppm and trigger unstoppable feed-back loops.

Please look at the science of this situation, not the politics. Listen to the experts who offer their advice to you during this inquiry, listen to the people of Australia and make the right decision in your recommendations.

Climate Change Minister Penny Wong has described the CPRS as 'better than nothing', but she is wrong. It is worse than useless.

Australia needs a strong, ambitious and fair emissions trading scheme, not a plan that protects polluters and stands in the way of the change we need.

Name: Margret RoadKnight