

Submission to Senate Select Committee on Climate Policy
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Greetings,

Please accept this document as my submission to the Senate Select Committee on Climate Policy.

The following key points should be considered in addition to other similar submissions:

- Legislation must be consistent with the latest international scientific consensus, and should expect the worst case scenarios for dangerous climate change to materialise.
- Depoliticising the setting of national emissions targets will ensure ongoing consistency with ecological requirements and humanitarian expectations.
- National emissions reduction targets should be defined and reviewed by an independent statutory body, such as the Australian Sustainability Commission¹, with parliament to take responsibility to deliver necessary policies and legislation.
- Targets for and reporting of emissions should include gross, net and per-capita figures, with the former being the primary focus of reduction strategies.
- The mechanism chosen to reduce national greenhouse gas emissions must include a schedule for independent review and allowances for continual improvement.
- Financial assistance to alleviate the burden from increased costs should only be provided to individuals, families and communities.
- Unsustainable or obstructionist industries and commercial enterprises should not receive financial compensation under any government policy.
- To drive innovation and expand commercial opportunities, stretch rather than pragmatic goals and targets should be applied (i.e. relating to renewable electricity generation).
- Systems and technology known to be unsustainable or obstructionist should be avoided or phased out, unless used temporarily to ensure a smooth transition to sustainable alternatives.

Finally, I ask the committee to recognise that it is the responsibility of every government, through education, incentive, and legislation, to ensure that unsustainable activities are phased out of society as quickly as possible, regardless of political system, party, or precedent.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this inquiry.

Regards,

Matthew Trigg

¹ As proposed in the 2005 Sustainable Cities Report and 2007 Inquiry into a Sustainability Charter