

The Secretary, Senate Select Committee on Climate Policy

April 5, 2009

Dear Ms / Sir

I wish to make the following submission to the Senate Select Committee on Climate Policy.

An emissions trading scheme must not allow the large carbon polluters to avoid paying the real costs of their polluting industries. The proposed Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme will shift the cost burden from the big polluters to individual taxpayers.

We must all acknowledge that it will be difficult and adjustments will need to be made, but we need to have a mechanism which forces the big polluters to pay the real "costs" of their polluting. Any incentives or concessions should be weighted towards those with the least financial capacity to initiate their own measures to reduce or eliminate their carbon emissions. This will usually be individual households, small businesses and not-for-profit organisations.

The government must take advantage of the current global economic slowdown to change the direction and nature of Australia's economy. Australia needs to aim to become a self-sustaining, carbon-neutral economy by 2050. Contrary to what the big polluters' lobbyists would claim, an economy based on renewable energy sources, the full development of our intellectual capital and sustainable resource use could provide ample, meaningful employment for all.

There is an unprecedented need for urgent and significant government action. Thus far, this has been completely lacking.

Global Climate Change is happening now and Australia is at risk of calamitous consequences if we (and the rest of the global community) don't take bold and immediate action to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. We cannot afford to wait and hope that other nations might show leadership that we will then follow. For our own sakes we have to make the largest reductions we can manage on the way to a carbon-neutral economy by 2050.

The Rudd government initially promised much, has since promised less and delivered much less. We cannot afford such equivocation. The informed, unbiased scientific opinion is clear; the threat is extreme - we must act now.

Yours sincerely

Peter G Morris