

To Senators on the Senate Select Committee on Climate Policy, What we need for this issue is bravery and leadership. Yes, it is difficult to face the problem of climate change and keep the wheels of the nation - its economy, etc - turning. But, without dealing effectively, as distinct from in a token manner, with climate change, there will be no viable economy eventually. Sure, this won't worry you or me or some of the current voters, but it will worry our children. This is why I am asking you to be strong enough and brave enough to take the big steps necessary to fight climate change.

It is already too late to avoid it!

You all are well aware of the extent of the problem and of the science and the ever-worsening predictions which come from evaluating climate progress as the situation deteriorates. We all admit it is a dire problem. The world's climate is a fundamental. Our lives are intricately entwined with it. Human life is about to change in most unwelcome ways which are to produce much worse problems than even the current economic crisis. These problems are going to be much more long-lasting and more pervasive than the current crisis, severe as it is. I am ashamed to be an Australian at present, given our shocking record on emissions. We have a history of having polluted our world and yet we continue to do so and, unbelievably, we continue to encourage big polluters to keep it up. We need a brave, strong, intelligent government that is willing to stop this and have faith in the fact that we can compensate and change. For example, other ways of producing energy are out there and need to be developed and encouraged; other jobs will arise in climate-change - related industries to give coal-workers, etc employment.

I am begging you to do the right thing by the world and not to be swayed by big polluters and other big interests. You are the government and your country needs you to act in its best interests, even if there are some or even many who cannot see the importance of what you do. Your current proposal is nearly equivalent to doing nothing about the problem. Good luck, Joan Landy

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