

To Senators on the Senate Select Committee on Climate Policy,

Climate change is the most significant and most critical challenge facing this country and the world at this time. More important and more significant than any other issue, including the current economic crisis, the war in Afghanistan, and other matters occupying the attention of policy and law makers. The Australian public has identified this as the biggest issue in several opinion polls and so any elected representatives who ignore this or believe that it can take second place over other concerns, not only do so at their peril but history will judge them as having been criminally derelict in their responsibilities to this country and to future generations. The pathetic efforts made so far by the Government in combating climate change are extremely disappointing. We should have much higher targets in reducing carbon emissions and polluters' bluff should be called by introducing a heavy carbon tax, despite their threats of large scale sackings of workers in their industry. If

necessary, special short term unemployment relief should be introduced to help the unemployed workers, using the carbon taxes collected.

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