

The Secretary
Senate Select Committee on Climate Policy
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA
ACT 2600

Dear Senators,

Thank you for inviting submissions to the Senate Select Committee on Climate Policy.

I urge you to listen to our climate scientists and address climate change issues immediately. If we don't do that, we will have no economy to protect and no future for our children.

The Rudd Government's targets to cut greenhouse pollution by just 5-15% by 2020 are very inadequate. If other nations followed this recommendation, we would have to expect more extreme weather, repeats of the bushfires we just faced in Victoria, floods and cyclones. 1[1]

If we wish to be taken seriously in the international sphere and especially at the Copenhagen climate change conference in December we need to show leadership in issues relating to the environment and economy. We need to set a strong climate change policy, addressing the following areas

- (1) Higher targets to cut greenhouse pollution – 30% at least by 2020, moving towards 40%
- (2) Increase spending on alternative energy such as solar and wind farms
- (3) Run education and information campaigns for our people so that we can reduce the number of carbon miles from producer to consumer and encourage people to harness and conserve water and energy more efficiently.
- (4) Increase taxation on big polluters, especially coal producers (the proposed Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme will see our tax base fund activities of polluting companies to the tune of \$9 billion over the next three years ie \$1,000 for every household in Australia)2[2] - in the context of rising unemployment, this simply destructive from a social perspective.
- (5) Increase funding for and tax breaks for research into alternative energy, conservation and recycling3[3]
- (6) Increase taxation on advertising and purchase of goods which are polluters, energy consumers and throw-aways.

1[1] A joint CSIRO/Bureau of Meteorology study of the impact of climate change in bushfires found parts of Victoria faced up to 65% more days of extreme fire risk by 2020 and 230% more by mid-century.

2[2] ACF data

3[3] According to CSIRO economic modeling, 2.7 million new jobs will be created in Australia by 2025 if we set course to become carbon neutral by 2050.

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In 2007, we voted for strong action on climate change. In 2009, I urge you to act on this mandate and make responsible decisions which reflect the will of the people, not just those which are expedient or which benefit business in the short-term.

Yours sincerely
Gillian Castellino