

To Senators on the Senate Select Committee on Climate Policy,

Thankyou for providing the opportunity to share my views with the committee.

There has over the past decade or more been an obscene level of debate, but limited action, on climate change, its causes, ideal targets for climate stability, mitigation and adaptation etc etc. This debate has recently evolved into a heated political discussion as to what should or shouldn't be an appropriate intermediate CPRS reduction target for 2020.

I believe this current debate to be naïve in the extreme whilst the foundations of "emission reduction" knowledge have not been established in either the business's that have to action those reductions or the bureaucrats that have to set and police the targets.

The true benefit to Australia of the CPRS, as proposed, is that it is a flexible framework within which material emitters of greenhouse gases can account, verify, report and manage their carbon pollution. If necessity is the mother of invention then the CPRS is the mother of climate change mitigation.

We must refrain from getting lost in the debate around intermediate targets and focus on providing industry with the tools and incentive to reduce their emissions against historical benchmarks, its only with this feedback will we know what is possible and at what cost so that future targets can be set with confidence. A far better intermediate target would be an aspirational one that has at its core an acceptable impact on economic metric such as GDP.

The alternatives of regulation and or taxation are far blunter instruments that only provide target makers with a one dimensional view and therefore provide limited insight into the possible dynamism of the commercial carbon emission system. Insight that will be required as targets are tightened to levels that would be completely unachievable today.

So please let's defer the discussion on targets to another day, a day after we have implemented the CPRS and have gained the knowledge and skills to set those targets to achieve a balance between our environmental and economic objectives.

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