

7 April 2009

Senate select committee on climate policy  
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Submission on proposed legislation:

**Emissions trading - Carbon Permits for polluters: Credits must not be free. Australia must set much stronger targets.**

This scheme provides free credits to polluters it is not 'better than nothing' it is a travesty of polluters self interest and weak government. The current and future needs of whole Australian community do not appear to have been addressed. If we must have an 'emission trading scheme' Australia must go back to the drawing board and design a scheme that is best practice. Australia should look at what happened in the EU with free credits, the polluters took the free credits and still used the scheme as an excuse to charge the community much higher retail prices; good for the shareholders, a very bad outcome for the community and the finite world.

A carbon emission scheme must and should not allow the polluters to gain credits from the actions of individuals and small business to reduce their reliance upon traditional energy consumption by converting to green and alternative energy choices. By allowing polluters to exploit this loophole Australia will encourage further green house gases and will not reduce Australia's total greenhouse emissions beyond the Government's inadequate and weak target of 5-15%. The fact is by allowing such action will only make room for industry to increase their emissions under that already totally inadequate cap. In addition, individual actions to reduce reliance upon polluting energy sources is an expensive process that should reward the individual actor and not the green house gas polluter.

The Australian climate and situation must be capitalised upon with government championing, investing in and stimulating industry to provide green and other alternate clean energy industries. One does not have to research very far to know that the problem of green house gas sequestration is not going to be the answer. An emissions trading scheme that has a baseline beyond which emissions cannot fall is a fail, in the long term it can only be a part of the problem, not the answer.

In summary, the carbon trading emissions scheme as proposed by the government is not worth the paper it is written upon, it is far too weak to provide for the future wellbeing and prosperity of Australia. Australia needs to lead not follow the rest of the world.

Yours sincerely

Susanne Scobie.