

Dear Secretary of Senate Select Committee,

I am writing to you about your current inquiry into the emissions trading scheme. I believe that Climate Change is the greatest policy challenge that we will face in this lifetime. It is far more important than either terrorism or the economic situation, because the results of weakly managed climate change could easily overturn any good work we have done in those areas. Therefore, I would urge you to recommend to the government an extremely rigorous policy with regard to the CPRS.

I am concerned that the fossil fuels industry will try to pressure you and Cabinet to soften any policy, especially with suggestions of job losses. But the long term picture is far worse in terms of employment levels if we do not act strongly now.

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If we need to get our emissions 40% below 1990 levels by 2020 (and I believe we do) then political courage is going to be necessary. An unpopular decision may be in the interests of all.

I would ask you to be fair minded (and strong minded) in your recommendations.

Thank you,

Yours sincerely,
Rebecca Forbes