

Dear Secretary of Senate Select Committee,

I am hopefully one of many writing to you to express my concern over the failure of current and recent Federal governments and some opposition parties to address climate change more effectively.

I have 3 children, all under 6 years old, and due to the environmental wrecking that continues day after day, decade after decade, by faithless industry and commerce, my children are set to inherit a rather depressing world - less biodiversity, more particulate pollution causing chronic illness, extreme climatic change, drought.

The answers have been before us for a long time - more research and development of renewable energy, more tax on polluters. With the idea of a carbon tax, there is some limited hope for change. But the current model is a failure of conscience as much as a failure in practice. I urge the Senate to demand an increase in Australia's 2020 target to at least 40%, as recommended by Scientists and concerned NGOs. I urge the Senate to amend any legislation to ensure that no carbon permits are handed out free of charge but must be paid for, either directly or through an auction. I borrow from Oxfam's suggestion and urge further that any revenue generated from these auctions must be used to restructure our economy and meet our international obligations including assisting developing countries to adapt to climate change.

I would like to say that change is possible with Government intervention. It won't really come from industry which cannot reconcile its social responsibility with its singular rationale for profit. Sadly, I fear that many of our elected representatives do not in fact represent our wishes, but pretend that it is for our own good that radical departure from current policy is not adopted.

People want real change, and they want it yesterday.

Yours sincerely,
Patrick Brownlee