

To Senators on the Senate Select Committee on Climate Policy,

The costs of pollution should be included in the costs of running a business, just like taxes, wages and rent are!

REAL pressure needs to be put on the biggest polluters and industry and force them to change and make big differences.

The tougher our pollution laws are the better. Strict laws against polluting may lead to some companies dying. As Charles Darwin once said: "It is not the strongest of the species that survive, nor the most intelligent, but the one most responsive to change."

Those that change will have developed some competitive advantage that they can use to increase the bottom line not only here, but overseas. A tightly regulated and competitive home market creates world beating exports.

I understand when businesses complain that this will cost money. I understand that companies have a duty to provide the best profits they can to shareholders. But it is also understood that because they operate within a society, concessions need to be made.

Having to supplying safety gear for workers also costs money but providing for workers safety has become an accepted cost of business and as in fact lead to gains in the form of less days off due to injury and a greater retention of staff.

Change is always hard and costly but in the long run, the whole of society ends up with a net gain and Australia's industries become all the stronger. The costs of pollution should be included in the costs of running a business, just like taxes, wages and rent are!

As it stands, the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS) proposed by the Government is a badly designed scheme that will be worse than useless. Its key flaws include an unacceptably weak target, and a design which over-compensates polluters at the expense of the community and environment.

Climate Change Minister Penny Wong has described the CPRS as 'better than nothing', but she is wrong. It is worse than useless. Australia is a 1st world country and needs a 1st rate trading scheme. I can't help but feel our politicians are worse than nothing!

Yours,  
Martin Oakley