

Dear Secretary of Senate Select Committee,

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I'm extremely concerned about the increasing impact of climate change of the world's poorest people.

These people will be most affected by climate change because they are the most vulnerable and the least equipped to face the challenges that lie ahead.

Developed countries such as ours have grown rich through industrialization making us responsible for releasing large amounts of greenhouse gases that are not only threatening our way of life but the very existence of those living in poverty.

Australians are one of the highest emitters of greenhouse gases on this planet so we need to take responsibility to change our ways to ensure a sustainable future for everyone.

Science has told us that we need to reduce our greenhouse gas production by at least 40% below 1990 levels in order to avoid the dangers of climate change.

An Effective Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme is a vital part of an overall strategy to tackle climate change.

However the one this government is proposing is seriously flawed.

Permits must be earned not given away!

Why not give first option to companies that are already taking proven measures to reduce greenhouse gases.

If you give them away wealthy companies will just buy there way out of the responsibility of having to actually do something that will make a difference.

We need to encourage a real change in behaviour. This is already happening in schools around the country, if they can do it so can big companies who have far more resources to dedicate to this problem if they choose to , so, give them incentives to make those changes and make them accountable.

Alternatively you could auction the permits rather than handing them out.

Auctioning permits provides an effective market-based price signal to big polluters to reduce their greenhouse pollution.

There should be no price ceiling, and penalty rates should be set at a limit to encourage compliance and to reflect the true cost of carbon. Sir Nicholas Stern has estimated this at AUD\$120 a tonne.

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.

Australians are generous when it comes to giving from their own pockets to those less fortunate- our government should also reflect this generosity and keep to our commitments of helping those who are in need- the poorest of the poor.

Yours sincerely,

Emmanuelle Emile- Blake