

To Senators on the Senate Select Committee on Climate Policy,

I am disappointed that in spite of being an improvement on the previous government in this matter the present minister and cabinet pay little more than lip service to the urgency and importance of an effective climate policy.

The failure to set meaningful targets is letting this and future generations down. The health of the planet is the basic necessity for our continued existence.

The target of a 5% reduction is worse than useless; it undermines those countries that are trying to take meaningful steps and gives other polluting nations an excuse to do nothing. Australia has a chance to lead.

There should also be much greater emphasis on the encouragement of alternative nonpolluting, renewable methods of energy production (solar, wind, wave, water...) rather than propping up and subsidising bad industries.

Public transport and rail cartage should be preferenced over cars and road haulage.

The freeloading of industry on domestic carbon savings is indefensible.

Another necessity is the amendment of the Forestry Agreement and the discontinuation of the destruction of the valuable carbon holding old growth forests.

Australians deserve and owe the rest of the world something a good bit better than "better than nothing."

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