

Dear Secretary of Senate Select Committee,

I am writing in regard to the Government's recently proposed Climate Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS).

The Rudd Government was elected, in part, based on promises to the Australian people to take strong action on climate change and to abolish the WorkChoices legislation. Regardless of whether one agrees with the content of the Fair Work Bill, it must be acknowledged that the Government demonstrated determination and leadership in pushing the legislation relating to the latter through the House of Representatives and the Senate. In regard to the former, and ultimately more important promise, the Rudd Government is failing.

The science is clear and the indications of what will occur worldwide are disturbing. As you are no doubt aware the consequences of climate change will be felt most in the developing world. Millions of people will be affected disproportionately as Australians continue to live in relative opulence; a lifestyle gained at the expense of the lives of those less fortunate.

I call on the Senate committee to hold the Government to account for the promise it took to the election and its ethical duty to Australia and the world. Scrap the current CPRS, grow a spine, show some leadership and adopt a scheme that:

1. aims to reduce our emissions to 40% below 1990 over the next 10 - 15 years;
2. auctions permits instead of handing them out to big polluters. This would provide an effective market-based price signal to big polluters to reduce their greenhouse pollution.
3. does not include a 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.
4. would require the revenue generated from these auctions to be used to restructure our economy and meet our international obligations including assisting developing countries to adapt to climate change.

I believe Australian's are prepared to do it tough if we have to in order to mitigate the consequences of climate change. I am currently awaiting the finalization of my Australian citizenship. When I get it - my vote will go where the leadership on climate change is.

I appreciate the opportunity to have a say in the Senate Inquiry.

Yours sincerely,  
Matthew Phillips