

To Senators on the Senate Select Committee on Climate Policy,

The CPRS target is to reduce Australia's carbon emissions to 5% below 2000 levels by 2020. That effort, if followed by the rest of the world, is a recipe for climate catastrophe. Far from the Rudd Government's goal, as stated in the legislation, of seeing global atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases stabilise at 450 parts per million, it will send the world past 550 ppm and trigger unstoppable feed-back loops. Scientists agree that developed countries like Australia need to reduce their emissions by between 25 and 40 per cent by 2020 if we are to avoid runaway climate change. Clearly, the target range of 5-15% is unacceptably low and must be urgently reviewed. Australia needs a strong, ambitious and fair emissions trading scheme, not a plan that protects polluters and stands in the way of the change we need.

The Government needs to address issues such as the retrofitting of rain water tanks and solar panels in rental properties. Instead of giving out money as an economic stimulus package so that people can spend it on flat screen televisions why aren't you making bulk purchases of sustainable energy generators and giving them out to those that apply, with legislation that states that all rental properties must be retrofitted by the year 2015? Think of the work that this would generate for our tradespeople?

There is so much more that you could be doing. Don't be afraid of innovation, take risks on sustainability, NOT our environment. There will always be politics, but we won't always have a climate and an environment worth living in.

-Katie