

Dear Secretary,

I write as an ordinary member of the public, with no special qualifications or experience beyond being a parent and teacher.

The proposed 5 – 15% reduction in carbon emissions by 2020 is, at best, disappointing; a betrayal of the hope that I felt when the current administration took up office.

I feel frightened and helpless in the face of looming global catastrophe which is a feeling shared by many people in the community, but not, it seems, by those in a position to effect real and effective change. I feel a growing gap between politicians in power at both a state and federal level, and the population they purport to represent and serve. There is such a sense of readiness among the people I meet every day, a hunger for action to change our current unsustainable way of living in Australia. But however much as individuals we try to minimise our environmental footprint, the real impact will only be made when the highest polluters have to change their practices. The current arrangement suits them well, and the measly 5 – 15% reduction proposed is frankly ridiculous. Have the courage to do more – much more – soon we will have no choice. This could be a timely opportunity to make the difference to all our futures; to give us a future at all. You can be sure of widespread support from the ordinary people.

Australia could lead the way in the use of alternative technologies, and in giving the planet a fair go.

Yours sincerely

Karen South