

Dear Secretary of Senate Select Committee,

I would like to thank the Government for its preparedness to tackle climate change. This is the major issue of our time and it must be treated with great urgency.

The Government's proposed Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS) might be considered to be an important step in this direction but recent European experience suggests that this is not the case, (particularly in the present economic climate). A more effective solution may lie in the adoption of a carbon taxation, carbon rationing or personal carbon allowance system, which could offer a more direct and effective response to the problem. We have a number of concerns with the content of the CPRS which we would like to raise with you.

- ♣ The proposed carbon pollution target of 5% to 15% is woefully inadequate in view of the latest scientific data which continues to depict a rapidly worsening situation. In order to limit emission levels to 450ppm, the moderate Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change recommends targets of 25% to 40% below 1990 by 2020. By tying yourself into a set target prior to Copenhagen you establish a very low bar for other countries and put the Government negotiators in an inflexible position.

- ♣ The CPRS, in its present form, does not offer any incentive to individuals to encourage and enable them to take action themselves. If they do act at a householder level they may only succeed in assisting industrial polluters to maintain or increase their emissions. The Scheme should provide incentives to foster individual action and to assist in the further development of the renewable energy sector.

- ♣ Major polluters are not required by the Scheme to face up to their impact upon global warming. In particular, by granting such high levels of free permits to the EITE industries the CPRS only encourages them to continue with their present practices. Recent European experience shows the folly of such an approach.

- ♣ When permits are issued they should not be defined as personal property rights as this can create future compensation problems and in a sense establishes the "right" to pollute.

- ♣ The capacity of industries to purchase international credits should be limited. Concerns have been raised about the value of some of the overseas projects and such investments do little to improve our domestic emissions situation.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the CPRS. We urge you to take a stronger and more urgent stand on global climate issues for the sake of our country and the world.

Yours sincerely,

Yours sincerely,
John Carpenter