

The Secretary
Senate Select Committee on Climate Policy

Please accept the following submission on Climate Policy to the Senate Select Committee.

Dear Senators

I am just an ordinary citizen who is terribly concerned about the future of our planet and our capacity to respond to the challenges of climate change. I believe from all the evidence scientifically and from what we can see happening in the world with increased natural disasters - fire, drought, floods, melting of arctic and antarctic ice, stronger weather events and so on - it is clear that climate change is happening now. I believe all rational and informed people are in agreement on this. The impact that climate change will have on worldwide poverty, unrest and social change must also be given urgent and careful consideration. My concern comes about especially because I have two young sons, aged just 8 and 5 years of age and I know it is them and their generation that is going to inherit the problems of climate change and the possibility of a very changed world.

I believe that the Rudd Government's targets to cut greenhouse pollution by just 5-15% by 2020 will prove disastrously inadequate for my children's generation. If the rest of the world followed suit Australia would face a future of more frequent and extreme weather events than we have even seen in the past year. Already we have seen the worst fire season on record, with concurrent flooding elsewhere in the country. In Perth we continue to have hot summer weather with no rain continuing past the first week of April. This situation will only worsen as the global climate responds to the carbon that we continue to pump into the atmosphere.

I know many families are trying to do what they can in their own lives and homes with carbon offsets, reducing energy use, solar hot water and electricity panels even. Others feel that this contributes so little that what is the point when big business continues to be allowed to pollute. The big polluting companies need to also do their fair share. The proposed Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme will see Australian taxpayers funding the activities of companies that are fuelling climate change to the tune of \$9 billion in the next three years. That's over \$1000 for every household in Australia. This is a completely outrageous situation and I believe unnecessary. The scheme must be fixed by the Senate this year to stop big business from loading the problem of climate change onto ordinary people.

I believe very strongly that the answer to our current economic crisis is through the support of new technologies and business. Cultural workplace and economic change has historically come about via the necessity of changing technologies and innovation which has consequently driven new growth. Strong action on climate change will create millions of new Green collar jobs, and drive investment into renewable energy, not destroy jobs as the big polluters claim. I believe this should be seen as an economic opportunity for Australia and that we should grasp this opportunity with a view to becoming world leaders in this field. We are after all uniquely gifted to take advantage of solar, wind, wave and geothermal energy creation opportunities.

I urge you all to give careful thought to our Climate Policy and to instigate much stronger and firmer targets for carbon emission reduction and at the same time to provide new stimulus for green technologies which will ultimately strengthen our future economy while safeguarding the future for our nation's children.

Yours sincerely

Alison Leitch