

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to express my absolute disgust at the government's pathetic attempt to appease the so-called 'green' factions of Australia. In my view, any person who does not identify as a 'greenie' is deliberately ignoring the need to conserve and protect the environment our number one priority. This includes all environmental issues, including the declining state of Australia's rivers and estuaries, dryland and wetland salinity, industrial pollution and climate change.

If this country does not set an example to the World by promising to eliminate at least 50% of our toxic and greenhouse gas pollution, we stand to be ridiculed in front of the global community for weakness. How can other countries take our claim to be a world leader in science, technology, quality of life and humanitarian society seriously if we fail to come up to scratch on this issue? We will lose all leverage and bargaining influence.

We need to step away from USA example, and stand on our own feet.

Doesn't anyone understand? The economy MUST come second! Without a clean environment, we will have no food and no water. It is as simple as that.

As a marine biologist, my particular expertise of course is the effects of climate change and global warming on the ocean and coastal ecosystems.

To simplify several highly complex issues, in my opinion sea-level rise is the least of our worries. With the melting of the polar ice caps and Antarctic land-ice, deep ocean circulation will simply stop. This is a fact, and we are well on the way already. Implications: no fish at all due to totally disrupted food chains. This will, of course be especially felt in countries such as Chile, and many regional areas of Australia where fishing and seafood form a critical part of the diet and economic activity.

I could go on for pages and pages, however suffice it to say that it is suicide to condemn this country to backward technologies and to contemplate keeping dirty industries just because of the jobs.

It is not just about what difference this legislation will make in Australia, but how much we care about Australia's place in the World.

Regards,

Sam Taylor