

Dear Secretary of Senate Select Committee,

I am writing to express my deep disappointment with the Government's planned CPRS. As it stands it sets targets far too low to have an impact on global warming. It gives major polluters too much and does nothing to encourage investment in low emission technologies. As any carbon savings made by individuals will only give major emitters a bigger margin, it also discourages individuals and small business from taking action themselves.

Australia urgently needs an effective scheme - in order to encourage industry and investors to create a low carbon future, and to play a moral and technological lead in a new post-carbon economy.

Our wealth has come from releasing large amounts of greenhouse gases over a long period of time. We have an obligation - and the national resources - to do more than the Government is proposing. There is also a strong groundswell of community opinion that will support political leadership on this.

Science tells us that we need to reduce our emissions by at least 40% below 1990 levels by 2020 to avoid dangerous climate change.

I urge the Senate Committee to press the Government for:

1. Emission reduction targets of at least 40% below 1990 levels by 2020.
2. Permits to be auctioned instead of being handed free to big polluters. Auctioning permits provides an effective market based signal to big polluters to reduce their greenhouse pollution.
3. There to be no price ceiling.
4. Penalty rates to be set at a limit to encourage compliance and to reflect the true cost of carbon (estimated by Sir Nicholas Stern at AUD\$ 120 a tonne).
5. For revenue raised from these auctions to be used to restructure our economy and meet our international obligations, including assisting developing countries to adapt to climate change.

Thank you for the opportunity to have a say in the Senate inquiry. Australia must do its fair share to prevent catastrophic global warming.

Yours sincerely,  
Sharon Hetzel