

The Secretary,
Senate Select Committee on Climate Policy
Parliament House
CANBERRA
ACT 2600

Dear Senators,
Thank you for inviting submissions to the Senate Select Committee on Climate Policy.

I strongly agree with the advice that is expressed below by members of the Australian Conservation Foundation, but I would also urge you to take strong action to bring an end to the destruction of old-growth forests by the timber industry. The extreme importance of the preservation of these forests is a major issue in the preservation of our Climate. The /Green Carbon Report/ from leading scientists at the Australian National University includes information that Australia's natural forests store, on average, three times more carbon than previously estimated and, in some cases, up to 10 times more carbon. If we are genuinely concerned for the restoration and preservation of the climatic conditions that we and all other living creatures on Earth are adapted to, we must preserve all these old growth forests that are supremely important contributors to Climate Stability.

Australia needs to champion an effective global agreement if we are to avoid devastating effects on our environment and economy. We need to set a strong climate change policy before the crucial Copenhagen Climate Change Conference in December. This is the best – and possibly last – chance the world will have to solve the climate crisis.

Australia needs to lead by example and increase its weak 2020 target to at least 30%, moving to 40% in the context of a global agreement.

In addition to my appeal for an end to the destruction of our old-growth forests, I ask that your committee recommend policies that make strong cuts in Australia's carbon pollution, make Australia energy smart and drive investment in renewable energy to make it cheaper than coal power.

Strong action on climate change will create millions of new Green Collar jobs, not destroy them as the big polluters claim.^2

In 2007, Australia voted for strong action on climate change. In 2009, I urge you to use your important role to recommend Australia makes a response to the climate crisis that future generations will thank us for.

Yours sincerely,

Philip S. Kidner