

In this submission I wish to reiterate what many other submissions will undoubtedly state and then add some practical ideas to address climate change which are probably not such big ticket items but can have very beneficial effects on reducing greenhouse gas emission. They will not destroy Australian competitiveness or "drive the big polluters off shore". They will allow for innovation and create jobs and grow the economy.

First of all. I wish to add my concerns of those of others.

The government's proposals for legislation on climate change are very disappointing to electors who voted for Australia to set the bar high with its initiatives.

The target of between a 5 and 15% decrease in Australia's greenhouse pollution is below what Labor originally stated that it would be and does not demonstrate to other countries that we are really serious about addressing the issue. A target in the range of 50% by 2020 is more appropriate.

The present CPRS scheme requires refinement so that it forces polluters to improve their efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emission or pay rather than be compensated. Because the CPRS imposes a floor beyond which emissions cannot fall, the action individuals and small businesses take to reduce energy will not reduce Australia's total greenhouse emissions further than the Government's weak target of 5-15%. In fact their action will only make room for industry to increase their emissions under that cap.

Secondly, there are other more innovative actions which can improve sustainability and reduce greenhouse gases either directly or indirectly. Legislation should include some really tangible non negotiable conditions such as the following:

- No new fossil fueled electricity generators are to be built in Australia and all current stock will be phased out of the next 25 years: the type of legislation introduced in Germany some years back in relation to nuclear powered electricity;
- As from 2010 all specified manufactured goods sold in Australia must have provisions for the item to be returned to the point of sale or the manufacturer for environmentally friendly recycling. Such specified items would include motor vehicles, electronic goods, batteries, white goods, furniture, etc.
- As from 2010 it will be illegal for e-goods and batteries to be dumped with general land fill. They are to be recycled in approved e-waste facilities such as that at Villawood: this initiative to be managed by local councils/state governments as part of their regular waste management schemes but funded by the federal government.
- As from 2010, all new buildings or renovations must include specified innovations which promote energy efficiency and sustainability. Such items could include rainwater tanks, cladding, specified glazing, water recapture features, electricity saving/producing features: the extra cost of such inclusions could be covered by federal funding.
- The Federal government needs to acknowledge the vital importance of public transport and shift the bias away from funding motorways. It should state a universal statement about this such as: All citizens should have public transport options for their travel: As a goal, in urban/suburban areas no person should be no further than 10 minutes from regular public transport. Those outside these areas should have at least daily return transport options to a major centre.

To ensure that the problem is addressed ASAP legislation needs to be introduced along the following lines. As from 2010, all new industrial or housing development project applications in major towns and cities must be conditional upon the provision of public transport. This is a state and federal commitment and responsibility.

I trust that these ideas are considered by the committee since they address the important issue of climate change in practical ways.

Regards,

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