
Climate change is happening much more quickly than previously anticipated. We need to act NOW in ways that will make a difference. Australia's weak target is an embarrassment to us all and does nothing to support the new industries that have had the courage to start renewable energy and related businesses that depend on a good price for Carbon in order to be viable. The CPRS currently proposed by the government is seriously flawed and will do more harm than good. Why are we not learning from the European experience where polluters were over compensated? Why are we bowing to the interests of carbon polluting industries at the expense of the environment and our very existence as a species? Please consider the introduction of a carbon tax as an alternative to emissions trading. Our main goal must be to reduce the level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere as soon as possible. There are many things we can do to achieve this goal. Weak targets and compensation for big polluters will NOT help achieve this goal. Please provide real leadership by legislating for transition to a carbon neutral economy.

Heather Cousland

We feel the Government' target of 5-15% is to low and recommend reducing Australia's greenhouse pollution 50% by 2020 (on 1990 levels) with a review of the CPRS so that polluters are not over-compensated.

Yours Sincerely,

Neil and Beryl Rasmussen.

I want stronger action on climate change!

I do not feel that the Government's 5 - 15% target is adequate to avoid dangerous climate change.

The Arctic summer sea ice is now expected to melt entirely within the next five years.

Australia's weak target is undermining efforts to form crucial international agreement and must be improved prior to December's important UN Conference on Climate Change in Copenhagen.

Please set a strong target with a well designed schem to ensure Australia does the right thing in its contribution to effect climate change positively.

Susannah Thompson

Dear Madam/Sir

On the future of the planet. Not a trivial matter and non to be taken to lightly.

We have known for quite some time that the way humans gain and use energy to power our 'needs' has been adverse effects on the climate and therefore us.

People have been arguing that climate change is not real. Mostly backed by the current energy companies whom have vested interests.

Today we find ourselves in a uncomfortable situation. The hottest ever recored temperatures in the state of Victoria. I have a food growing business. Oh my god how insane it was trying to grow food in this new drought ridden and extremely hot environment.

As we suffer so does the world. Loss of massive forrest tracks, loss of species at the fastest rate even more so than when the dinosaurs roamed the earth mixd with mass mining, war and and ability to buy asparagus flown over from Peru! Leaves us with a situation of 'need to change the way the world works' in a fast and meaningful manner

In this letter it must be made clear that we are quickly running out of time and require fast action.

Te solution

No Coal - The worst form of energy releasing massive amounts of locked up carbon

No Nuclear - A filthy expensive product - Very dangerous!

Massive investment and implication of Solar - Wind - Geo Thermal - Wave - Bio mass or Bio Char.

It's clear. We have been putting it off! It is Time to act!

Robbie Keck

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Your efforts so far have been disappointing to outright pityful and insulting to all humans in Australia. How come noone in the government has yet realised that climate change is a mere consequence of critical overpopulation of a small planet?

Grotesque life styles like the Australian, wasteful +++++ and defiant to any attempts at sustainability accelerate the problem. No more baby bonusses, stimulation of growth! Try and rethink a sustainable way of life. That is your job as leaders, not to look a mere 3y ahead.

Regards

hubertus Jersmann

5/15% is pathetic. The obsession with maintain jobs in unsustainable industries is shortsighted at best. Instead, new industries, like solar energy, etc, should be encourage to replace jobs in industries that simply cannot continue, like coal power stations.

We don't have time to pander to the interests of big business. Big changes need to be forced onto the business sector and the Government can help by investing heavily in renewable industries and research into new technologies.

Australia's weak target is also undermining international efforts to set real and effective targets.

Thank you
Jenefer Plummer

To the government,

Economics and the environment are inextricably linked - if we don't have an environment, we don't have economics. It is a matter of prioritisation and the the dual crisis the world faces at present is not dual at all. It is a reordering of our national and international affairs - it is time that we put our energy and out time into nurturing the earth - the economics will look after itself. To sacrifice our home is to sacrifice that which keeps us whole, that which gives us stability, that which gives us food, that which gives us clean water, clean air and a place to celebrate family. Business has evolved to provide the services and the goods that nourish individuals and families - business is not a goal in and of itself. It is time we reordered our priorities and took a tough stand to nurture our world, our home.

best regards,
brendan ross

Dear Senate Select inquiry - i am writing to plead with you to set an emissions target that is adequate to make real change for our world. Setting a strong target with a well-designed scheme will ensure Australia does its fair share to avoid dangerous climate change, and it will also refocus our economy to take advantage of new growth industries in renewable energy. We need to allow our children to inherit a world that is safe and that we can be proud to leave for them.
thankyou

Christos Miliankos

I am really concerned that the Federal Government's proposed 2020 greenhouse gas emissions reduction target of 5 to 15 per cent is too weak, and will not combat dangerous climate change.

There is widespread agreement among climate scientists that much deeper cuts are needed and I support Australia taking leadership and making significant cuts of around 50 per cent based on 1990 levels by 2020.

The threats are serious - floods, fires, heat-related deaths, loss of food and water supplies, loss of biodiversity. As someone who is likely to be around to face these threats I am very worried for myself and also for future generations.

By contrast, deep cuts can be achieved through energy efficiency; expanded renewable energy like solar, wind, geothermal and green transformers; expanded public transport, cycling and pedestrian infrastructure; and better waste management. These measures are good for the environment and good for the economy as the world tries to transfer to a green low carbon economy.

While I support a good emissions trading scheme, I do not support the proposed Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme, which together with weak targets, seems like little more than a green wash.

The scheme should not compensate heavy polluting industries that should either be phased out over the long-term or need to clean up and change their operations. I do not support free permits and compensation.

Particularly concerning is that the scheme will impose a floor beyond which emissions cannot fall, which means the actions I take to reduce my emissions such as walking to work, not using air-conditioning, possibly installing solar panels when I buy a house, will only make it easier and cheaper for heavy polluters to offset my cuts with their pollution. I absolutely resent and oppose this part of the scheme - voluntary actions must be protected.

Remigio Nardone

Dear our representatives,

Please demand the necessary 50% CO2 reduction from 1990 levels which will provide food security for ourselves, our children and grandchildren.

Because action has been delayed for so long, it is now necessary. If we wait longer it will be too late no matter what we do for life on earth as we know it. Please note the recent unprecedented bushfires as an example of things to come.

You are the most important representatives in history. I know you will take your responsibility very seriously.

sincerely and in hope,
Karin Solondz

I am shocked and disgusted by the pathetic emissions reduction target set in the CPRS. The weak 5% target is undermining efforts to form a crucial international agreement and MUST be improved before Copenhagen in December. AND it's such a poorly designed scheme....designed to shore up and compensate polluters at the expense of the community and the environment.

The government and the ALP just don't get it...we didn't elect you Rudd, Wong and co to keep looking after your corporate and Union mates at the expense of the planet, our lives, our future, our children's future...don't you get it? If you don't act with the other governments at Copenhagen to set very strong targets around the globe - at least 60% on 1990 levels by 2050, then we're all stuffed, everything's finished, the party's over. And yet we have an opportunity now, an opportunity to refocus our economy onto new the new growth industries in renewable energy AND TO STOP CLEARFELLING OUR PRECIOUS FORESTS, those carbon-dense, water and soil conserving repositories of biodiversity that will be the most valuable places on the planet in years to come.

I'm very angry, I find it hard to be polite to people I consider to be climate criminals. But you have a chance to redeem yourselves yet and get the CPRS right.

Yours in disgust

Loren Mills

Unless we have incentives to make business and Joe public NOT OVER CONSUME they will continue to do so.

Unless we have incentives to encourage business and Joe public to consume products that are ENERGY WISE they will not be drawn to them.

I AM NOT IN FAVOUR OF COMPENSATING CONSUMERS, even ordinary householders like myself, for the increased price of energy etc, that seems to defeat the very purpose of the exercise and it removes responsibility from the consumer.

The computer era is a good example of how quickly we adapt to new things. If in 1985 we'd all been told that by 2009 we would be out of pocket some \$1000 plus per year just to have and operate a home computer we would of demanded that the government do something about it.

Instead of mass media peddling the DOWN SIDE of CPRS (no matter how weak it is)how about a media drive GAME enough to SING the TREMENDOUS UPSIDE of a CPRS that has real bite!!!

There are so many business's out there now ready to embrace this new era and see it a field of opportunities but they have been drowned out by the BIG END OF TOWN whingeing about the status quo. How about financially rewarding those that want to participate instead of bribing those that don't.

We need a STRONG and CHALLENGING CPRS in the order of 25 plus percent by 2020 and if THE BIG END OF TOWN want to go OFF SHORE with their bat and ball there will be MANY OTHERS TO FILL THE GAPS.

NECESSITY IS THE MOTHER OF INVENTION.

Australia has such a golden opportunity to become a WORLD LEADER on this issue, we don't have to wait and follow as this will lead us all down the slippery path of trying to catch up when it will be FAR TOO LATE!!

Be brave, this is a turning point in our history and YOU HAVE THE BATTERN AND MY FUTURE IN YOUR HANDS.

Yours respectfully
Genevieve Morrissey

For the sake of our children and our grandchildren the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS) currently proposed by the Government is a badly designed scheme that will do more harm than good. The scheme design over-compensates polluters at the expense of the community and environment.

We should instead commit to reducing Australia's greenhouse pollution 50% by 2020 (on 1990 levels).

Climate change is happening much more quickly than previously thought. The Arctic summer sea ice is now expected to melt entirely within the next five years.

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.

Please consider the world itself rather than just the economy.

Sincerely

Maureen Macmillan

I was very sad this week to read that the white lemuroid possum which has a fossil record going back more than 5 million years will almost certainly become extinct in the wild in the next few years. The reason? The possums are unable to tolerate a small rise in temperature- they cannot tolerate temperatures above 28 degrees for more than a few hours.

We Australians continue to live far beyond our means when it comes to resource use and consumption. So far, all discussions about sustainable living has been mainly talk and no action, especially from the Government.

Come on. Make some tough decisions. Someone has to do it.

I am especially annoyed that the proposed CPRS imposes a floor beyond which emissions cannot fall, and that 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.

Come on. Make some tough decisions. Someone has to do it.

Yours sincerely

Jennifer Herron

To The Minister for Climate Change the Hon. Penny Wong

Dear Ms Wong I am writing to submit my sincere belief that the government's proposed carbon emissions reduction targets are totally inadequate to face the challenge posed by climate change in our time.

Recent scientific investigation shows that climate change is occurring at a much quicker rate than previously thought. The Arctic summer sea ice is expected to disappear completely within five years. Many previously permanently snow-topped mountains around the world are now becoming bare of snow. Many small island states have their existence threatened.

The grave issue of climate change requires leadership and bravery. Australia's weak target could potentially undermine efforts to reach crucial international political agreement on strong targets, especially in light of the forthcoming UN Conference on Climate Change in Copenhagen this December. The government's weak stance is especially disappointing considering Australia's unique potential for developing a renewable energy based economy.

Finally I am extremely disappointed that major polluters will receive massive compensation, thereby removing any incentive for corporations and business to be responsible environmental entities.

I hope that the concerned outcry of millions of Australians will be heard by the government and that we can all work together to create a viable future.

Sincerely

Karl Griffith

We expect a better response to the greatest challenge affecting this wide brown (and getting browner) land. We effectively live in a desert and with water supplies in such scarcity the Government must do more. As an Australian voter I am empowering you with my full support to stand up and show the leadership this issue requires. So what do I want - I want you to do what your commissioned research tells you to do - if not be so brash as to go above and beyond.

Apply a bit of climate change anti-sceptic and show the leadership my vote expects of you, because, to use a lovely Australian expression, 5% is essentially pissing in the wind.

Jarrold Gunn

I write this submission in support of a strong emissions target. The Government must act in the long term interests of the Australian people, not the short term interests of polluting industries. And Australians of this generation will need to make the sacrifices necessary so that future generations have a planet that can sustain them. The Government must also prioritise the interests of poor communities across the world that will certainly bear the brunt of climate change.

Setting a strong target with a well-designed scheme will ensure Australia does its fair share to avoid dangerous climate change.

Yours sincerely
Helen Beazley

Australia should be a leader not a weak follower in the fight to save the earth from climate change. We should be mandating strong - and effective - greenhouse gas emission reduction targets. Not vacillating and rewarding polluters at the expense of the community and the environment. If we don't do something effective within the next decade then our children, my children, will be grappling with a very different world. Our world cannot wait for political arguments - something needs to be done now.

Brenda Steedman

You obsess about jobs, but we will lose more jobs if you do not address this issue urgently

30 years ago we had time to dither - now we do not

Short term thinking got us into this mess, we need different thinking to get us out of it.

Positive feedback loops will kick in and the process of global warming will dramatically accelerate and you may not be in politics but many of us will still be on the planet.The amount of carbon the oxygens can soak up is falling, the temperature is rising meaning even less CO2 will be dissolved, more water into the atmosphere, and more heat is retained etc etc

You have read tim flannery's book the weather makers I assume, and seen al gores movie, and read ian lowes book ? (if not why not?)

Not enough was done with the knowledge that cutting trees in west australia would cause dry land salinity and now we are in a mess

Not enough was done urgently about asbestos and thousands of people died that were exposed to asbestos while legislators dithered

There are many examples if you care to look where slow inadequate action causes big problems

Your solar subsidy roof subsidy that finishes in June and is only for moderate income households with little money .. is like rearranging deck chairs on the titanic - read about the million solar roofs program in california

The health effects of climate change are profound and far reaching (I am a doctor). Fixing climate change has the double benefit of mitigating the adverse health effects on people and the planet

* hotter days, means more food poisoning, more deaths from heat, more pollution, less work and exercise can be done so less fitness

* more extreme weather events means more costs of insurance, more destruction, more mental stress, more infrastructure costs

* food production problems from change in climate are not to be underestimated

* global warming increasing the range of mosquitoes that carry dengue and ross river and barmah forest virus, malaria, tick borne rickettsial disease and so on

It is childish to pretend that we can do business as usual it is selfish to, only worry about ourselves in australia, - for the sake of future generations I submit to you that you are heading down the WRONG path. Grow up, behave like a wise adult. Make the hard decisions. Many in the community want this for our families

Yours most sincerely

Deborah Mills

1. There is a general misconception about the nature of the change created by global warming. Every new finding shows that change is happening more rapidly than previously thought, pointing to exponential change rather than the straight line model which seems to be all our politicians can get their heads around. Even the necessary 50% global reduction by 2020 canvassed only months ago as being adequate to halt further deterioration is rapidly being superseded by the need for even more dramatic cuts.

2. There is thus a need for rapid and large cuts in global emissions. We are doing a disservice to concerned nations meeting at Copenhagen in December with our paltry 5-15% target.

3. Nationally, the cap and trade programme proposed does nothing to harness the enthusiasm of the people for change. There is a worrying suggestion that individual action, such as installing solar power units, will be counterproductive, leading to no reduction in the cap and allowing industry to reduce their own efforts.

Similarly, the purchase of offsets overseas will allow industry to do little to change its pollution levels. Only with very high prices for carbon permits will change occur. Because of the downturn in world industrial activity, current prices remain low.

There are examples overseas of countries which have subsidised energy output. This contribution should not be underestimated. Our present white paper virtually ignores it.

4. It would be nice to see Australia trying to lead the world into a rapid and meaningful programme of emission reduction. We seem to have more to lose by inaction than most nations.

Mike Wild

Dear Mr Rudd And all those associated,

As a concerned resident of Australia I would like to see the Govt extend It's carbon pollution reduction policy to at least 30% reduction by 2020. We don't have the time to dilly dally and people are much more able to help the world on this issue than realised. We need to act quickly and efficiently. Sea levels, world temps and loss of animal and plant life and habitat is frighteningly on the rise.

I would also like to congratulate the govt on solar household initiatives enabling refunds for positive changes..more incentives for households and businesses could see a vast improvement in future carbon emission.

Cate Green

I am deeply concerned about the CPRS scheme and the weak Greenhouse Gas Target of 5-15%:

- 1) The CPRS allows unlimited offshore purchase of carbon permits. This will fatally weaken the scheme, and limit the incentive to really make the adjustments needed in industry;
- 2) The target is too low to mobilize the action needed to re-orient our economy to a carbon-constrained future;
- 3) The target removes bargaining room to achieve real and effective international targets - it signals we are not serious about taking the action needed to reduce the threat of runaway climate change;
- 4) The CPRS includes the flaw in the European Emissions Trading Scheme - it gives away free permits to the big polluters;
- 5) The continual adjustments in favour of the big polluters indicates that the powerful lobby from these industries is able to extract the concessions they need, as they did under the Howard Government, to pollute for free and to treat the atmosphere as an unfunded sewer. This is in effect a Carbon Pollution Subsidy Scheme. The policy signals are all wrong. These industries have had a long time to reorient their industries but have spent this time lobbying for the position that climate change is not happening. Now they want free handouts to continue doing things the same way;
- 6) The signals are all wrong in relation to incentives in another important respect. I earn ~\$50,000 a year. I have solar hot water. I don't have an air-conditioner because I don't want to add to the problem. I'm currently getting a 1kw photovoltaic system installed to do my bit. Now I discover that my efforts, under this system, enable the coal-powered electricity suppliers to free up permits which they can sell to other polluting industries like Aluminium. The worst thing about this situation is the fact that it will breed cynicism and fatalism in the population, just when we need a concerted and collective effort to turn things around. This erosion of hope is the worst of all the things wrong with this scheme.

Yours sincerely,
Annie Kia

Considering that climate change is happening even faster than predicted the Government's target of 5-15% is not nearly enough to prevent us reaching a tipping point beyond which we will not be able to remedy the damage done to the earth.

The CPRS as it currently stands is not well designed and over-compensates heavy polluters at the expense of the community and the environment. It needs to be redesigned so that it has a meaningful impact on climate change.

Yours sincerely
Elizabeth Coleman

Dear Sir/Madam

It always shocks me when I see summits and conferences all of a sudden coming together to discuss the plight of the worlds economies, how this is devastating and can have a lasting impact on us for years to come blah, blah, blah. Yes it is a problem, But I am just aghast that we still brush off the most important, pressing issue occurring which will make an economic crisis seem absolutely insignificant. Why can people not comprehend that without the very basis of our existence "The planet in which we live" functioning to sustain life on earth for our existence, then we have nothing. We Australians must send a clear message to the world, that we are prepared to take the lead in the world and sacrifice some luxuries in order for us to have a functioning planet in the years to come. I know I am wasting my breath to a degree because there are not many real leaders in existence in the world that can stand against the greedy leaders of industry and say "no" we are all going to protect the planet and you mr. industrialist must be prepared to let this happen.

Please, please before it is too late, let us make some real reductions to our greenhouse gas production.

Brendan Barbetti

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to inform you that I would like higher reduction targets for climate change. Given the current research and speed of change 5-15% is not enough. The minimum I would like to see is 20-25%.

We have the opportunity to be world leaders in this area and I think it is high time we stepped to the fore. I would also like to see far greater infrastructure building with regards to solar panels and solar farms. It makes logical sense for a country that has large amounts of sunlight to invest in this technology and use it, instead of only exporting their knowledge.

I also wish to register my objection to the government's weak policy position on compensating carbon polluters, it seems very much like you are letting big business push you around into making decisions which will keep the peace rather than doing what is right. Jobs can be created and though that may take time, I believe at least we will be able to look our children in the eye and know we did the right thing.

Kind regards,

Lee Hamelin.

Labours climate policy is little better than no policy, and it is a complete betrayal of the people (including myself) that voted them into power.

If after the people of Australia have shown, as they have, that they are willing to pay the short term price of the changes needed to safe guard the futures of their children. The two major continue to do the bidding of unscrupplulous big business, then their betrayal is corrupt, a crime against humanity, and treason.

Let the leaders of the two major parties be on notice, if the results global warming are a fraction as bad as the worst warnings, then the death penalty may well be re-introduced specifically for you.

Adrian Hollis

I am a young person who will have to live through your decisions, my children will have to live with these decisions you are putting in right now. Do the right thing, think about the future not just your jobs and thoughts right now. be forceful, be proud stand strong and be brave to actually MAKE A DIFFERENCE to this planet and the way us humans treat it.

We, the people of Australia have voted you in to give voice to our opinions. Don't let us down.

Set reasonable targets that will allow households to benefit from being green and force big companies into not weak carbon offset plans but influential changes to their processes and how they run their companies, this is the only way forward.

Make the CPRS better!
Nellie Montague

Why not have all new houses and business built environmentaly and economically friendly? Why can't new houses/businesses be lawed to have their premises built with recycled water,rain water tanks, solar power, insulation etc... So these few items are mandatory. Why is it so hard to have this compulsory. This could not only save money, the environment but could also create jobs. Australia is so far behind the eight ball. Lets learn from other countries not wait for them so we can follow them, lets lead the way.

kind regards
Kelly Hunt

The continuing stream of new scientific findings reveal that climate change is accelerating at a faster rate than previously thought. The response of the Australian Government has been less than adequate. The 5-15% target not only undermines international efforts to reduce carbon pollution but the Governments CPRS is designed to overcompensate polluters at the expense of the community and the environment.

It is evident that many Australians have been prepared to take individual action to minimise their affect on the environment. Many have installed Solar Panels helped at one stage by a government subsidy. Such industries in renewable energy have had little government support in Australia. If the Australian Government set stronger targets for carbon reduction would that not refocus business and our economy to take advantage of new growth industries in renewable energy.

Dianne Quilty

Cap-and-trade is a far too weak way to reduce carbon emissions. Coupled with "carbon offsets", it is just plain unworkable and open to corruption in the form of free permits.

A carbon tax is clear and unambiguous, efficient - and sends a definite message that

- * CO2 is undesirable, and

- * Renewables are thereby very much encouraged.

And please abandon the illusory "carbon capture" the CO2 "captured" would consist of '000s of cubic Km, much more than the planet's capacity to handle.

And who will guard the hole, and keep it safe from terrorists, organised crime, leakage etc? And it gets even scarier when that clown Ferguson starts believing that you can store it under the seabed. I mean, honestly, get real!

Thank you,

Mal Anderson

At the last election, many of us voted for the government because, among other reasons, they sounded like they'd take climate change seriously.

The apology and the Kyoto protocol were fabulous symbols of change but this carbon emission target is the tell tale sign of whether change is more than skin deep.

We have given you this mandate with our votes at the last federal election. It's time to follow through!

Lenore Lambert

The Federal Government's current position on climate change and carbon reduction designed to achieve a 5 to 15% target is profoundly disappointing.

It does nothing more than lock the nation into more of the same (as the status quo: Australians being the population group responsible for the highest levels of greenhouse carbon emissions on the earth.)

In common with numerous citizens who wish to contribute meaningfully to reduction of consumption of antiquated fossil fuels, I have installed solar panels at my home with the assistance of the government rebate.

I have in good faith, accepted the marketing by federal and state governments that domestic solar energy installations and operations would effectively contribute to a CPRS, only to discover that the scheme exists only to accommodate inefficient carbon dependent industries and energy suppliers. The government should urgently address and reform this absurd travesty.

James Watt

I am very concerned that the government's proposed 5-15% target for reducing greenhouse pollution is not strong enough.

The lower level of 5% sounds like we're not really serious, and this is the most serious situation the world has ever faced.

I am terrified of the consequences of not acting strongly enough or soon enough. I would also like to see a much stronger emphasis on using renewable energy and encouraging, even enforcing, energy savings in business and at home.

Alex Zandstra

Why are we Australians so lacking in courage and VISION ?
Why are we kow-towing to the worst polluters-the coal mining and coal exporting companies?
What is the use of saving your political skin and destroying our planet in the process ?
Increase the CPRS from 5% to 50% BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE.

Kate Smorty (Mrs)

New Scientist 28FEB. 09 spells out where we are headed.

80% of Australia will become uninhabitable desert in the next 90 years and very possibly only 40 years hence. Tidal energy in the Kimberly's can generate 6 times our current electricity production and this power can be transmitted to Sydney at a cost of 1c per Kw Hr. which will not break any body's budget and can be done with minimal environmental damage.

Why will the government not consider this option? Could it be that clean coal will be cheaper than solar but not cheaper than Tidal? Is our democratically elected government being vetoed by Big Coal, Gas and Oil? I expect they raised no objection to super high speed broadband (\$43B) because it would not interfere with their business and may slightly enhance it. Will anybody be around in 50 years time to use it?

The underlying principal of Globalization is that each country does what it does best. Why should we not do our best when it comes to greenhouse gas reduction?

Ivan Quail

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I have recently read 2 articles which together have greatly increased my anxiety about our country's week emissions reductions targets.

My first concern is that recent drilling into sediments off the West Antarctic Ice Sheet make it seem more probable than ever that this large volume of ice will melt completely and causing catastrophic sea level rise of around 7m. This research finds that in the past this has occurred when atmospheric carbon dioxide levels reached 400ppm (or around 3 degrees of global warming) (Naish et al 2008 'Obliquity-paced Pliocene West Antarctic ice sheet oscillations' 458 Nature 322).

My other fear is that we will far exceed this level of atmospheric carbon dioxide even with ambitious international cuts to greenhouse emissions, given Ross Garnaut's recent estimates published in the Oxford Review of Economic Policy (volume 24, p377). He suggests that, taking into account new estimates of carbon emissions, even if developed countries cut emissions below 40% of 1990s levels, to stabilise carbon dioxide levels at 450ppm developing countries would still have to reduce growth in emissions by one third by 2020.

Given problems including developing country targets in recent negotiations, Australia must lead the developing world to undertake deep cuts in emissions to attempt to achieve this stabilisation target without the help of reductions by the developing world. At very least Australia must demonstrate to other governments the urgency of this issue by taking strong action to meet a crucial stabilisation target. In the context of Garnaut's recent figures, 5% reductions from 1990s levels appears completely unsatisfactory.

I hope I have conveyed the urgency of this matter, and the evidence that leads to my conviction that the time for token efforts in greenhouse reductions is over. The government must:

Impose a emissions reduction target (by 2020) of 50% of 1990s levels, and

Implement an ETS which does not subsidise polluting industry so that the scheme can be effective in finding the most cost-effective reductions in emissions and meet a strong reduction target.

Kind Regards,
Max Collett

Dear elected climate leaders,

I was very disappointed when Australia's emissions targets for 2020 and 2050 were announced last year.

While I understand the argument that per capita, the announced targets are substantial when compared with other nations (due to our population size), the targets do not adequately address the fact that Australia is one of the world's highest emitters of carbon dioxide.

We need to go further. For our environment and the worlds. For our economy. And for our workers.

I urge you to position Australia as the global leader in renewable energy industries.

Best regards,

Josh

I am very pleased to hear that the Senate has called an independent inquiry into the government's climate change policy.

I strongly believe that the 5-15% target is woefully inadequate to rapidly reduce our greenhouse pollution, especially since the melting of the Arctic ice indicates that climate change is happening much more rapidly than we first thought.

I am also concerned that the carbon reduction scheme proposed by the government allows the bigger polluters to continue polluting; it angers me greatly that while the rest of us work out butts off to reduce our emissions, the big polluters get to take our carbon credits for themselves.

Australia is one of the biggest polluters in the west & it is time we took responsibility for that & set a high standard to demonstrate to the rest of the world we are serious about climate change. This presents us with a huge opportunity to invest in renewable energy industries & aid our economy in this time of global economic crisis.

Yours sincerely,

Colleen Meyer

It is imperative that Australia demonstrates to the world that it is not only committed to avoiding dangerous climate change, but that it can design and implement strong and effective policies that will deliver large and immediate reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

The currently proposed Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS), which in principle is an efficient way to achieve a given reduction at least-cost, has a number of problems. These are:

- The 5-15% target is grossly inadequate to avoid dangerous climate change. There should instead be a commitment to reducing Australia's greenhouse gas emissions 50% by 2020 (on 1990 levels).
- Australia's weak target is undermining efforts to form crucial international agreement and must be significantly increased before the December 2009 UN Conference on Climate Change in Copenhagen.
- The CPRS is badly designed as it over-compensates polluters at the expense of the community and environment.
- Because the CPRS imposes a floor on overall emissions reductions, actions that individuals and small businesses take to reduce their emissions will not reduce Australia's total greenhouse emissions further than the Government's target. This is a perverse outcome of the current design. Greenhouse gas emissions from actions undertaken outside of the CPRS (whether those actions are voluntary or under other regulatory mechanisms) should be isolated from CPRS emission reduction targets.

Yours sincerely
Coral Robinson

Each week new scientific findings demonstrate that climate change is happening much more quickly than previously estimated. Summer sea ice in the Arctic is now expected to disappear entirely within the next five years and Antarctic ice shelves are breaking up.

It is imperative that Australia does its fair share to avoid dangerous climate change by setting a strong target with well-designed supporting schemes. Australia also needs to make the economy more sustainable by taking advantage of new growth industries in renewable energy.

In relation to the Federal Government's proposed Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS), I wish to make the following comments:

1. The proposed 5-15% greenhouse gas emissions target is grossly inadequate to avoid dangerous climate change. Australia needs to commit to reducing its greenhouse gas emissions by 50% (compared to 1990 levels) by 2020.
2. Australia's weak 2020 target is undermining efforts to build effective international agreements. The target has to be significantly increased (as above) well in advance of the UN Conference on Climate Change in Copenhagen at the end of this year.
3. The CPRS is badly designed as it significantly over-compensates polluters at the expense of the community and environment.
4. As currently designed, the CPRS floor on overall greenhouse gas emissions reductions means that actions taken by individuals and small businesses to reduce emissions effectively gives large polluters room to do less in reducing their emissions. To avoid this perverse outcome, emissions from actions undertaken outside of the CPRS (whether those actions are voluntary or under other regulatory mechanisms) should be isolated from CPRS emission reduction targets.

Yours sincerely

Terry Wark

The science is clear cut - human greenhouse emissions are causing radical climate change. Large cuts to emissions need to be made urgently. Australia must become a world leader and forego short term profits from coal.

We owe this to future generations, poor people and all life on earth

Michael Palmer

I believe that the government should consider alternatives to the cap and trade system, which while I'm sure it has theoretical merits actually imposes a floor beyond which emissions cannot fall and so negates the action individuals take to reduce energy consumption - in fact it only makes room for industry to increase their emissions under that cap.

What about a simple taxing of emissions? Or if you're dead set on keeping the CPRS then at least set a target that means something. Global warming is evidently happening faster than had been anticipated, so we MUST do something significant.

Mac West

While I believe the minimum target of 5% is too low, I do not understand why a maximum was specified before our representatives go to further international talks. There should not have been a maximum set.

There should be very tight limits on the degree to which 'emissions' are exported - industry must cut emissions, not simply invest in 'so called' offsetting.

The coal industry should accept that it's not the only choice for generating energy. The unions should accept that the renewable energy sector will result in many jobs being created. Early acceptance of these facts will allow for an orderly transition to a renewable energy industry and workforce.

Colin Lambie

Scientific findings is showing that climate change is happening much more quickly than previously thought. The Arctic summer sea ice is now expected to melt entirely within the next five years. The Government's 5-15% target is not at all adequate to avoid dangerous climate change. We need to commit to reducing Australia's greenhouse pollution 50% by 2020.

Thank you,

Alec Sobra.

I can see why the government is refusing to take the jump-it may well cost jobs in the short term, and ship pollution overseas. But these consequences pale into insignificance beside what will happen if we do nothing, which is what 5-15% effectively is.

On behalf of all Australians, the government must commit to a 50% reduction by 2020. Reasons- 1) Any less will result in the catastrophic 2 deg of warming which we must avoid at any cost, 2) The international position on Climate change has altered since the Obama administration, and the President's own willingness to set tougher targets than the Rudd government ones. We could take cover behind the U.S' own abysmal record while George Bush was president; now we are likely to drag the efforts of the rest of the world-the West at any rate, down to the point of ineffectiveness, with these pathetic targets.

THE GOVERNMENT MUST ALSO COMMIT TO A TOUGHER STANCE ON POLLUTERS, in order for the Carbon Trading scheme to work at all. No compensation for the big polluters!

Yours sincerely,
Susan Shore, Anthea Shore and Catherine Shore-Lorenti

A statement to the senate inquiry on climate change

Thank you to those who voted for this inquiry. It gives citizens like me who are profoundly disturbed about the future of the planet, an opportunity to contribute to democratic processes, by making statements from our hearts.

In the early 1970s I often spoke to friends and colleagues about the need to eliminate nuclear weapons. In 1974 at a conference in Canberra a group of scientists said to me, 'You have more to fear from the burning of coal than nuclear weapons.' I still fear nuclear weapons, but the burning of coal has emerged as a sure fire cause of present and future human misery. Now, when friends of mine ponder what they might have done if they lived in Germany during the Nazi regime, and how much they might have known, I point out that their children and grandchildren will ask what they did in 2009, knowing what they know about climate change. The moral imperative to act on what we know applies to climate change.

I have installed a water tank in my backyard in Brunswick, Melbourne. I have solar panels on order to meet the energy needs of the household. I believe that the current CPRS policy under consideration by legislators totally undermines my costly effort to reduce carbon pollution. My anger at this free kick to carbon polluting companies is very great. You must not let this aspect of the policy through the parliament.

Australia is a rich country. We have profited vastly from our contribution to the degradation of the environment world wide, and our over consumption of items that are neither useful or beautiful. I stand guilty along with the rest of us. We need a different public conversation about the economy and jobs - we need to shift to investment and jobs that will generate alternative renewable power and reduce our consumption levels. We don't have two or more planets to support our consumption. This is why we have to set ambitious targets. The current target is so pathetic I feel ashamed about our national selfishness and our national stupidity. It makes no sense to me. I wish the government that I voted for for because they promised to do something useful about carbon reduction would explain the rationale for the current target in ways that make sense. I feel very betrayed.

I hope the Senate will find a way through this for the people.

I have a question for the inquiry - are the CPRS and a tax on carbon mutually exclusive? I don't hear anyone proposing both, but why not?

Best wishes in your endeavours

Helen Macrae

The Rudd Govt is proving a disappointment to those of us who voted for a party that we believed would truly make a difference on climate change.

Australia's weak targets on carbon emissions will not be effective in avoiding catastrophic climate change. The science is unequivocal - and new findings are showing that climate change is happening more rapidly than even the previous shocking reports indicated.

Critically the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme currently proposed is badly designed and does not do enough to change heavy polluting energy producers. We need a system that does not continue to prop up old technologies - but rather, we must invest in new sources of non-polluting energy. We also need to better promote industries that have less impact on the environment, particularly regarding greenhouse gas emissions.

While i believe a stronger target is absolutely necessary, another important policy issue in relation to the CPRS is the floor imposed on how far emissions can fall. We should not have a cap on emissions reductions that only serves to undermine the additional discretionary reductions made by individuals, public bodies and progressive businesses, and provides room for the most polluting industries to increase their emissions. We need a policy that will encourage the collective efforts of all Australians to achieve better than the targets.

I urge the government to show true leadership on this issue, and to position Australia to bring realistic targets and energy reduction plans to December's UN Conference on Climate Change in Copenhagen. It's inconceivable that anyone in government could think that we have any time to waste on climate change.

Yours sincerely,
Jackie Van Vugt

In light of new data a 50% reduction in greenhouse pollution by 2020 will be vital to avert dangerous climate change.....more intelligent decisions will make this target possible and achievable. Humanity is running out of time and our Government is running out of excuses.

Our earth will continue to turn away from the Sun each night for a few more billion years, however if our Government waits another billion seconds to make a decision on a 50% reduction on greenhouse pollution, it will be too late.

Joanna Firth

I want to make a difference by saving water and energy at home but it is disheartening when my government doesn't seem to consider climate change as big a priority as I think it should. It makes my efforts seem insignificant when the Government's 5-15% target is not at all adequate to avoid dangerous climate change. I'd like to see a commitment to reducing Australia's greenhouse pollution by 50% by 2020.

It's more fulfilling to make the effort when your government is behind you.

Please help me to help my country and planet.

Regards,

Steve Harris

The Government's 5-15% target is inadequate to avoid dangerous climate change. We should instead commit to reducing Australia's greenhouse pollution 50% by 2020 (on 1990 levels).

We should also commit significant resources to scientific research in this important area, climate change is accelerating while governments do little or nothing to address the most important problem we have ever faced. The best time for action was yesterday, we can only go for second best and that is today.

Do not over-compensate polluters, set strong targets and promote Australian R&D, create jobs in sustainable industries and protect the environment at the same time.

Dr Walter Fernandez, PhD

Like so many other Australians I am extremely frustrated and disappointed with the response from the Federal Government on Climate Change. They promised so much and are delivering so little. This is an issue I am well aware of and very concerned about.

Every day I read of events happening that are related to Climate Change and I cannot comprehend how anyone can remain blinkered. It is obvious that serious changes are happening far more quickly than previously anticipated.

The Government's weak target for emission reduction of 5-15% is grossly inadequate and the fact that the Climate Pollution Reduction Scheme imposes a floor of 5-15% adds insult to injury. How can people be encouraged to reduce their emissions when their efforts will actually reward the big polluters? We cannot allow this to happen. We must give people the opportunity to make a real difference.

We need strong representation in negotiating on the world scene and we need to demonstrate that we are taking effective action in our own country. We have so much to lose and it is happening NOW.

Currently there is so much focus on stimulating the economy. Surely it is possible to undertake projects that help mitigate Climate Change effects and also provide jobs and needed infrastructure that will be of benefit in the long term.

We desperately need leaders with vision and a sense of responsibility and we need to be empowered to make a difference.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs. Kaylyn Geeves, OAM

Let's work at reducing our greenhouse pollution by 50% by 2020. Things are speeding up, our target is weak, we need to resolve what to do by the Copenhagen conference.

We are building a new house, would like to put in photovoltaics, but why should we go to the expense, when all it will do is to allow industry to increase their emissions because of the CPR wimpy scheme.

How can you refocus our economy to take advantage of new growth industries in renewable energy?

Now is a great time to start to refocus. Start boldly, your constituents want you to! Sieze the challenge, and our children and grandchildren will thank us for it.

Jenny De Mole

Dear Mr Rudd and Ms Wong

Australia must take stronger action and be a world leader on climate action rather than a recalcitrant member of the developed world. we are a most fortunate country and yet already suffering from effects of climate change - We should commit to reduce our greenhouse pollution by 50% on 1990 levels).

I thouroughly disapprove of the currently proposed CPRSS - a Labor Government should not be so in the hands of the big industries. You have huge support from the voting public - now is the time to show true forward looking leadership and show that you are genuinely concerned about the future, not only of Australia but of the whole world - and thereby in particular the poor in all countries who will be the first to suffer from rising ocean levels and all the other effects of climate change

Penelope Coleing

We elected the Rudd government to make significant changes to our approach to climate change, and this remains vital to our future but also economically sound. The GFC should not change this, we are still in the best situation in the world to do something positive about this and gain financially in the long run. We can drag the rest of the world forwards rather than backwards on this.

Patrick Rahilly

Dear Senators

Australia needs leadership like never before if it is to have any hope of avoiding catastrophic climate change. In Victoria we have witnessed the devastating effects of inferno type fires and over 300 people dying during the heat wave that fanned the fires in addition to those who perished during the fires. This is a terribly serious situation. The Government's 5-15% target is emabarassingly inadequate and flies in the face of the findings of their own inquiry and scientific advice which is showing the climate change is happening much more quickly than previously thought. Australia must show strong leadership on this issue. We appear to be a country with our heads firmly in the sand. As a family we are doing our best having just installed solar units and using as little electricity as possible. We know the situation is urgent but our politicians do not seem to share this same sense of urgency.

We need strong targets and well designed schemes to lead the way and we need these to be taking effect as soon as possible. Letting polluters off the hook through over compensation will white ant community and public action in reducing emissions.

Yours sincerely

Karen Large

To whom it may concern,

I'm an 18 year old volunteer teacher in Timor Leste, from Sydney.

One of the most shocking aspects of my experience here so far has been the abuse and disregard for the environment at all levels of society. This ranges from littering to logging, with everything in between, and nothing is done by the government to stop it. Of course, this has follow-on effects for climate change - trees are no longer absorbing carbon and rubbish is burnt in piles on the sides of roads. Nothing at all is done by the government to deal with this issue. It concerns me that in a country with \$2 million US per day spent on the UN presence alone, there is nothing at all done for the environment or sustainability. I hate to think how bad the situation is in more ignored countries. Of course, Australia has been entirely silent on this issue. Please make sure that while the government is pressured to make internal changes, the rest of the world is not ignored.

Yours faithfully,

Henry Cornwell

Dear Sir/Madam,

The dangers for humanity if the changes in climate predicted by scientists are extremely serious. In fact this point cannot be stressed too much. Not only is there the displacement of people and animals, there is the likelihood of famine, pandemics and warfare including nuclear warfare.

Though I am a senior person I am very disturbed for my children and grandchildren. Australia as a rich country must set an example to the rest of the world and set high standards. Even if the sceptics are right and global warming is not fully caused by human endeavour, the problems are too important to leave to chance.

At this time of economic failure we have an opportunity to move to a less consumer dominated and less self-centred society to the benefit of all.

yours sincerely

Colin MacKenzie

The whole notion is flawed. There should not be a trading scheme which would allow the 'Carbon Gordon Geckos' to have a field day, but rather a carbon tax. You emit, you pay. Simple. Quite apart from that the 5% reduction target is laughable. Shame on the government for rolling over for the coal miners (both business and unions). We do not have the luxury of time on this. Get tough, reduce emissions and take us into a sustainable future (and there could very well be a dollar in it as well - look at Germany!)

Brad Hooper

Equally as big and probably larger than the global financial crisis are the challenges for the world of addressing climate change. Decision makers NEEDS TO TAKE CONSIDERATION OF THE SCIENTIST FOR PERHAPS THE FIRST TIME AND BALANCE THIS WITH THE ECONOMIC TRADE ROLE OF INDUSTRY. THIS WILL INEVITABLY CAUSE SOME PAIN. NEVERTHELESS THE TARGETS MUST BE SET AS HIGH AS POSSIBLE AND CREATE SOME STRETCH OR THE REAL DIFFERENCE WILL BE NEGLIGABLE AND WE WILL HAVE TO PAY FOR OUR FAILURE FOR GENERATIONS TO COME. WE NEED TO LISTEN TO ALL VOICES INCLUDING MINORITY ONES AS IF THEY ARE CORRECT THEN THE OUTCOME MAY BE EVEN WORSE THAN THEY HAVE PREDICTED. Set the Bar and lets see how high we all can leap.

Michael Stone

To the chairperson of the Senate Enquiry into climate policy and greenhouse reduction targets

With incomprehension have I heard of the Australian Government's declaration of greenhouse reduction targets of a minimum of 5% over 2000 levels. While we are obviously talking about the future of our ecosystem, I fail to follow the economic reasoning behind such a short-sighted decision.

Even if I ignore the horrendous cost of having to build engineering solutions for ecosystem services lost to climate change, there are other good reasons to retool for the renewable energy economy.

There is more potential for developing an indigenous Australian industry focused on renewable energy generation (with most forms of renewable energy represented in Australia with considerable advantage in international comparison), than for broadband for instance, which has attracted a commitment of about 43 billion Australian dollars, but is highly likely to convey mostly imported products (movies, software etc) to Australian consumers.

Whether it is wind, solar, geothermal or wave energy, all Australian states have considerable potential, and it should be developed without delay.

I hope that the Australian government's short-sightedness, probably fostered by lobbyists from last centuries' established heavy industries without interest in innovation, can still be corrected.

thank you

Norbert Menke

Dear Sir / Madam

In a time of global financial crisis, governments across the world have found trillions of dollars in a bid to stem the crashing markets. Yet, somehow these same drastic measures and immediate responses are not applied to the global climate change crisis. This is madness.

And yet, 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. And so the power of individuals and community to effect change is stripped, at the very time it should be being empowered.

Australia's weak target is undermining efforts to form crucial international agreement and must be improved before December's important UN Conference on Climate Change in Copenhagen.

Setting a strong target with a well-designed scheme will ensure Australia does its fair share to avoid dangerous climate change, and it will also help refocus our economy to take advantage of new growth industries in renewable energy.

The Government's 5-15% target is not at all adequate to avoid dangerous climate change. We should instead commit to reducing Australia's greenhouse pollution 50% by 2020 (on 1990 levels).

Sincerely,

Rena Williams

Dear Sir/Madam.

I do not believe that the government's current response to carbon pollution reduction is adequate or appropriate. Modest goals of 5-15% will not impact on climate change. We as a nation must act by example.

Additionally I do not believe compensating industry is an appropriate response. They have benefitted from profits over years of environmental neglect. They should deal with environmental change just as they must respond to market change.

Faithfully,
Dominique Carroll

I have also been reading that a steady stream of new scientific findings show that climate change is happening much more quickly than previously thought. The Arctic summer sea ice is now expected to melt entirely within the next five years.

Climate change is very real and a strong response is needed.
Weak targets will not achieve the required change, nor will they communicate to the international community leadership on what is an appropriate response to climate change.

We need to focus on growing industries based on clean and green renewable energy.

Sincerely,
Liz Power,

Dear Senators

Climate change is now heading into dangerous territory. The breakup of the huge Wilkins Ice Sheet in Antarctica is just the latest evidence of this. Add this to the loss of the Arctic Sea Ice and the ever-increasing rate of melting of the Greenland Ice and glaciers around the world and the picture is all too awfully clear.

Your efforts, and sadly of most major countries, is simply akin to trying to put out a house fire with a bucket - sorry guys but it isn't going to work! It time to get serious.

This means:

- we have to commit to a target of reducing Australia's greenhouse emissions to a minimum of 40%-50% by 2020 (from the levels of 1990).
- Australia must lobby hard for increases targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to be agreed upon at the UN Copenhagen conference
- subsidies to the coal industry for the unproven and fanciful Carbon Capture and Storage MUST be ceased and replaced by dramatic funding increases into soil carbon capture which does offer great promise to take up the carbon now already in the atmosphere.

Time is running out. Do you have the courage to take the necessary action?

Dennis Murray

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like the Government to make some stronger commitments to the environment in the area of climate change and reducing our carbon emissions.

I don't think the Government's current target for carbon dioxide emissions is high enough and this not only means we can not achieve the cuts in emissions we need to stop damaging climate change but it also does not send a strong message to other countries around the world. We need to lead and set goals for others as well so the Copenhagen meeting can set some tough targets.

I am very concerned at the speed and severity at which climate change seems to be happening. I am involved in agriculture and I see the effects on the land every day. If we do not take action now we may struggle to rein this problem in.

I feel the current CPRS is extremely poorly designed and will not actually achieve a reduction in emissions but will simply allow large polluters to keep on polluting and money from the "trading" of permits to end up in the hands of trading houses or those that actually do not have a role in the whole system. We need a system that actually lowers emissions and the one proposed will not do that as you have been too easy on the big emitters.

Probably one of the most frustrating things to do with the CPRS is the fact that any action taken by individuals (such as myself as we consider building an energy efficient home) will actually not contribute to the task of reducing emissions as the Government will merely count this reduction into their figures rather than it being action on top of the Government's actions - this really annoys me and only serves to lower the incentive for individuals to act and that is exactly what we don't want. We all need to tackle climate change at all levels so don't lower the value of individuals' actions.

I hope you will consider my comments when looking into developing policy and putting the CPRS up for the vote.

Regards,

Allen Newman

Dear Mr Rudd,

I would like to put in a request that our present Government increase the target reduction of 50% for the Australian green house polution by 2020.This is a matter of urgency to prevent the consequences of dangerous climate change. Please consider this request seriously as our future generations will be thankful for your decision.

Yours faithfully,
Twevetch Khemananta.

Australia needs to take a strong stand on Reducing Green house gasses. WE NEED TO LEAD THE WORLD and show it is possible.

Industry/businesses claim that strong targets will weaken economic growth BUT if climate change is not reduced significantly there will be No economy left.

Please adopt the strongest carbon reduction scheme possible, with no outs for big polluters.

Please adopt at least a 50% reduction target and encourage all other countries to do the same.

This situation is critical.

Ypurs sincerely,
Helen Harris.

In 2007, I voted for a new government that would lead on responding to climate change. Much has been said since then. And our world is not much safer. I am still looking for leadership - a government who will set reduction targets that will lead the world. A government who recognises that climate change doesn't wait for economic crises to recede.

Please lead. Please establish goals that don't just make it look like you are trying to do something. But goals that actually SOLVE the problem. We aren't even in the ball park of being on top off this issue. We are still heading straight for dangerous climate change, with its impact on our economy, water security, sustainability of our cities, our coastline.

Please LEAD. please make something happen. I voted for you to start to solve this. Go faster.

Sincerely,

David Edmondson

The targets of 5-15% are far too low! Climate change is an all or nothing situation. Doing too little is almost the same as doing nothing. With these tiny targets we will lose Australia's most treasured natural sites - the Great Barrier Reef and Kakadu. We have to aim higher than this!

We need to focus on investing money in renewables and energy efficiency. Lots of talented people in Australia are working in these areas - give them more support and we can reach much higher targets.

We don't want a carbon reduction scheme that sets a floor on carbon permits - we need more incentives for business and householders to become more efficient and use less carbon overall. With the current scheme, efficiencies gained in some areas will translate to reduced prices for carbon permits. This is completely undesirable and means there is no incentive for Australia to move forward on the issue of efficiency.

Please rethink this scheme - it is a poor choice for Australia and will lock us in to something that is not only undesirable but ineffective. Please set higher carbon reduction targets and invest in all the new technology that is being developed by Australians!!

Sincerely,
Monique Retamal

Dear inquiry members,

I wish to add my voice to those calling for stronger targets for reducing greenhouse gases, and a better designed carbon pollution reduction scheme. As a person who has taken action in my own life to reduce carbon emissions, I am appalled that the current scheme allows highly polluting industries to rely on these steps by me and others to escape their obligations to reduce emissions. The scheme must be redesigned to encourage voluntary and community action in addition to obligatory reductions by business and industry.

The pace of climate change is accelerating faster than previous predictions. We must act now to prevent catastrophic change to the natural world, and immense hardship to those in poorer countries.

The current economic situation is no excuse for failing to act (we are talking about long term survival), and indeed is an extra reason. Meaningful action to encourage renewable energy could stimulate new sustainable industries, and so employment. It is a tragedy that Australia has already lost so many solar industries and experts to more far sighted countries, and a farce that, despite our natural advantages of sunlight, other countries, such as Germany, are so far ahead of us.

I urge the Government and the Opposition to take the courageous and non-partisan long view on this issue- for our children's sakes. We can be world leaders on this issue, and be morally courageous as the Rudd government promised in its election. Please do not let the Australian people, who have shown themselves ahead of their politicians on this issue, down.

Robyn Lansdowne

Dear Senate

I am disappointed in the low rate of emission cuts being adopted. Once again a lack of foresight results in a middle-of-the-road decision. You have been elected to make decisions to improve and safeguard our country. If hard decisions prove unpopular -TOO BAD. Even unpopular decisions are accepted by the majority when they are made for the right reasons (ie safeguarding our country for the generations to come). The State Govt of Victoria has been telling us how to save water and even the maximum daily usage for each person. The change in attitudes and behavior has been revolutionary. People just want to know what they need to do.

I believe its already too late to save ourselves and the environment but now that everyone is scared (except for the skeptics with their head in the sand) lets give it a BLOODY GOOD GO. Don't let the economy be more important than the people who create.

yours sincerely

Anne Margaret Macleod

Hi guys,

I am disappointed by the underwhelming reduction target of 5%. Significant opportunities to use this legislation to drive change and stimulate growing parts of our economy will be missed. The advantages of being a country that can reduce its dependency on fossil fuels are tremendous. I expect something in the order of 50% by 2020 would be more appropriate to stimulate the changes required in the business landscape.

Jud Hampson

One more government putting off the inevitable and leaving it for future generations to deal with consequences. Is that going to be your legacy? We voted for you expecting a great deal more than 5% and sweetheart deals with the coal industry. How will my children and your children look back on your inaction- with regret? with anger?
Time to stop being self serving apologists and make the hard decisions,

Colin Lucre

I am writing to express my disgust in the half-cocked approach to policy on climate change our government has proposed.

The target of reducing greenhouse pollution by only 5-15% is grossly inadequate and should at least be doubled if not tripled. This weak target undermines our position in developing an international agreement and must be rectified before the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen.

The CPRS is poorly designed and leaves the efforts of individuals, community, and small business owners (such as myself) to compensate for the big industry pollution instead of putting more pressure for everyone to come to the party.

A stronger target with a stronger scheme will allow our country to actually say we're doing our bit for climate change while also helping us refocus our economy towards new growth industries in renewable energy.

This is just not good enough

Sincerely

Ben Drysdale

While the 5 to 15 per cent target is a good start, that is all it is, a good start ! 1990 levels is also another good start. A one per cent reduction each year starting at 15 per cent of current yearly emissions with a starting position of the annual emissions for 1990 and a further increase of one per cent a year in the rate of emissions would also be a good starting point. Starting with the current yearly emission rate, year one of the reduction program would see a 15 percent reduction, followed in year 2 by a 16 percent reduction, followed in year 3 by a 17 per cent reduction, etc. All reduction percentages would be based on the starting years emissions.

Bruce Jackson (tax)

I strongly believe that the Australian government needs to change the targets for emissions reductions in order to set an example for international governments and to give us a chance to address climate change.

I feel that the government should be aiming for closer to a 50% cut on 1990 levels by 2020.

I also feel that any private efforts to reduce emissions made by members of the Australian public should be counted as additional to the cap set under the CPRS.

I urge the government to reconsider its current targets.

Yours sincerely

Penelope Clark (APD)BSc BHSc

In light of the fact that there are constant credible reports that climate change is happening much more rapidly than previously thought I believe that the Government's target for greenhouse gas reduction of 5-15% by the year 2020 is quite inadequate.

I urge that immediate action should be taken to both re-examine the design of the present Carbon Pollution Reduction scheme and to increase the target to at least 20% by 2020 and 50% by 2050,

Yours sincerely,

David Trebilcock.

Having recently returned to Australia from the UK media storm surrounding climate change, I am disappointed to hear the Rudd government's stance on helping to tackle climate change.

As a wealthy and educated nation I strongly believe it is our duty to lead with the other wealthy educated nations of the world and where they will not walk with us, we are to do our best to lead by example and to engage them in debate. It saddens me that once again Australia as a nation is not playing a proactive role in our global society.

I understand that as a government, there are many issues to address, and many voices to appease. However, I also understand that on very few issues in the past have so many of the world's specialists agreed on the same thing when it comes to an issue of such grand importance to every inhabitant of the world, human and animal alike.

As a practicing environmental scientist, I state with informed passion that greater action must be taken to regulate the actions and processes of industry and householders.

Whilst we have made some great steps in recent years, we are a very long way behind the continental european nations of our status and I urge you to take this opportunity to make a real change.

Kind Regards,

Sam Whitehead

It has never been more pressing a time to take leadership action on this issue
please ensure adequate traget to get us back into the green & out of the red fro the planet!

thank you

Leena

I believe the government was elected largely because Australians were asking for stronger action on climate change.

Please don't let us down.

Setting a strong target with a well-designed scheme will ensure Australia does its fair share to avoid dangerous climate change, and it will also help refocus our economy to take advantage of new growth industries in renewable energy.

This should be part of our push to regain moral credibility.

G. Bolton

I am amazed at the paucity of the Government's response to the urgent issue of climate change. It is so inadequate that it barely rates a submission, particularly given the overwhelming scientific evidence that climate change is occurring at a rate so much faster than previously thought. If the Governemnt is not persuaded by scientific opinion I would be wasting my time in making a detailed response.

Peter von Bertouch

The Government's target of 5-15% reduction is not high enough. Australia should set an example, not be one of the lowest reductions. We were already late to ratify the protocol, we should be aiming higher to make up for it.

The Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme does not encourage small businesses and individuals to reduce energy consumption because any action they take enables industry to reduce their efforts. Surely a better scheme can be devised to encourage everyone across the board to minimise emissions as much as they are able.

More efforts should be focussed on renewable energy sources - government subsidies etc.

The target should be set to a reduction of 50% from the 1990 levels by 2020 of Australia's greenhouse pollution.

Mary-Ann Shuker

It is far too late for mediocre emissions reduction targets, which is exactly what the proposed 5 - 15% targets represent. Australia must play its full part in the global response to climate change. The minimum reduction target should be 40% from 1990 levels.

It is not proposed that there will be a cap on Australian emissions of greenhouse gases, not even the meagre 5% unconditional cap. The Bill provides that a national emissions cap will be set, but allows Australian emissions units to be created and distributed that will exceed this cap.

There should be limits on the number of international units a facility and/or person can purchase to meet their pollution cuts. Even aside from issues of equity, which demand that Australian industry make as much effort to reduce emissions as other countries, particularly in the developing world, letting Australian industry off the hook in this way will disadvantage us in the long run, as other nations power ahead with renewable energy and alternative industry, prompted by strict emissions reduction requirements.

The number of free units to be issued to EITEs should be capped. There is nothing in the Exposure Draft that limits the proportion of free permits that can be given away to emissions-intensive trade-exposed industries. Even the 90% give-away proposed in the White Paper may end up being increased. Every free permit given to a polluting company means less money raised through the auction system will be available to compensate householders and invest in much-needed renewable energy development. The wealthy industries that have profited from pollution must be made, like everyone else, to pay their way in a carbon constrained world.

We must set a timetable for withdrawal from coal power, and encourage companies in coal-power to diversify their energy portfolio and plan for the closure of their coal plants. This can be done in a strategic, fair and orderly fashion only if it is explicitly planned for. There is no doubt that we will have to phase out coal power and the earlier we acknowledge and plan for this, the better. The Government's hesitation to admit and plan for this eventually is irresponsible, since it leaves both the country's energy supply, and potential energy investors suspended in uncertainty. Any assistance provided to coal fired power stations under the CPRS must be contingent on phase-out plans.

Reforestation projects under the CPRS do not exclude logging and can be "offsets" for industrial emissions. The scheme can (and will) be flooded with cheap credits provided for free beyond the cap to people growing forests, who will then be able to harvest those forests for timber unless the Regulations specifically prevent it.

The irreversibility of climate change demands that we be precautionary and that we make every effort available to reduce emissions and draw down atmospheric carbon. Any vegetated area that is set aside for a carbon sink – thus providing a source of income for the landholder via the CPRS – should not be allowed to be disturbed by logging or grazing.

The proposed CPRS is critically flawed and is an embarrassment for all.

Michael Palmer

Dear Policy Makers,

As a long time Labour supporter I was elated to finally have the Party back in government and with what seemed solid promises to do something about climate change. But here we are and it seems that things aren't moving very fast. Australia's commitment to tackling climate change has to be seriously questioned when it sets a target of 5-15% reductions in greenhouse emissions. When is someone in power going to take heed of what all the science tells us! The predictions of the effects are dire yet we're still debating clean coal technologies. Germany produces more solar power than Australia! It's frankly incomprehensible to me and many others why Australia doesn't focus on solar power and other green technologies.

Our environment is at risk on so many fronts and our survival along with it. What is the point of saving industry if the planet is dying! Wake up politicians. Every poll tells you that climate change and global warming is something that concerns all of us. Why aren't you acting now and decisively? Reports commissioned by the government have found that acting now makes better sense economically. Why waste taxpayer's money to find solutions that you're not willing to implement? Please take the lead and leave the Earth habitable for future generations.

Regards

Vicky Tzioumis

We are very deeply concerned at the lack of action by Australia to halt Climate Change.

We would like to see a much more ambitious target for greenhouse gas reduction, much more commitment to stopping the logging of old growth forests (which are so effective in trapping and storing carbon dioxide), much more money devoted to large scale treeplanting in degraded landscapes, more support for farmers and volunteer groups wanting to improve land by planting it with trees, and a much bigger investment into research into, and development of, renewable energy techniques. Money spent in these ways would help to protect and create jobs too.

We ask that you work on our behalf to convince the Government it must take stronger action immediately to limit present and future damage to our environment and society by climate change .

Thank you, and all the best -

Dorothy and Michael Howes

The Government's new rebate scheme for solar power in the home is appalling. Residents are obliged to sell their RECs (which have been inflated to 5 times their value) if they are to receive any rebate. If the REC's are sold in this way the Government can claim (5 times!) the benefit for the greenhouse reduction without investing in any significant greenhouse reduction scheme. I for one wont be selling my RECs so that a polluting, energy generation industry like coal power can offset it's pollution. This government needs to be encouraging residential solar systems AND investing in renewables.

The rebate for solar systems should not be tied to relinquishing one's RECs.

The governments target should be linked to new renewable and energy saving initiatives and should be at least a 50% reduction of greenhouse pollution by 2020 (on 1990 levels).

Yours Sincerely,

Brett Foulis

I would like to strongly urge that the government be made to see that the 5% target that is being set is by far too low.

We should be seen to be leading the way in initiatives and action to reduce our greenhouse pollution not make a token submission. We are one of the worst polluters per capita in the world - and how can this be - we have the education, the experts, the knowledge and yet we are still allowing this to happen.

I am building my first home and now actively seeking information and quotes to install solar hot water and heating - but why? I do this because I believe so strongly in our country and our environment but what happens when I do - the credits allow big business to pollute even more. I don't understand this. If I can try to budget and cut corners to reduce my environmental footprint why isn't big business and the government trying harder - why aren't they being made to? The government only has to look around, look what is happening with our weather to see that we now have no choice but to work together and work harder - setting a small target isn't going to cut it. And I believe that our Federal Environment minister has sold out - he should have stayed in the music business!!!

Where is the funding for environmental projects, renewable energy projects? How much money is going to the oil industry?

I'm not sure what I can say here - I'm 51, a mum, a office worker, a greenie and I don't have higher education but I do know that more has to be done and I'm trying every way I know in my small part of the world so perhaps it's time that the government tried harder in its part of the world.

Thanks for reading this

Julie Dale

From the bottom of my heart I urge the Australian Government to act strongly for target of at least 50% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2020.
NOW is the time to provide clear leadership & direction for our nation & our increasing fragile world.
Please be courageous Mr Rudd, Ms Wong & all politicians. Give a legacy of survival NOW.
Individuals, industry, other levels of government will learn to change & manage.
With hope for the future the Oz. government can give to our kids & theirs & theirs.....forever

Yours sincerely
Liz Sheedy

I applaud the fact that the government recognises that climate change is a significant ecological, economic and social issue, not merely a political issue. But I am disappointed by the proposed CPRS.

This is not the time to allow short term economic situations to overrule long term planning for the common good. Australia has one of the highest per capita carbon emissions in the world and so we bear one of the highest levels of responsibility to set a standard that inspires and challenges other countries, rather than making them feel like reducing their own targets.

This scheme is poorly designed and seems to allow too much compensation for large polluters and too little incentive for reducing our emissions by more than the quite low cap that has been proposed.

Please reconsider. You remain in my prayers as you wrestle with this important issue.

Grace & peace,
Byron Smith

As an Australian living in London I am amazed to hear the progressive work that the EU is doing to tackle Climate Change. However it is increasingly upsetting to read the lack of progress in Australia and the weak targets that are being set to do our bit. Australia punches well above it's weight in influencing global issues and people from around the world are interested to hear what Australia is doing. So it is time. It is time to set targets that inspire us to achieve what is necessary. It is time for us to lead rather than follow.

Regards
Peter Veitch

Dear Government of Australia,

You have the possibility to make a change now to keep Australia the beautiful place it is. The people will support you if you only have the courage to do so.

Thank you.

One of your many environmental (even before it was popular) Representatives.

Dr Heike Kath

The target proposed of a 5 to 15% reduction is not good enough. With all house holders turning off their lights to reduce energy, they reduce the overall reduction, freeing up the amount that corporations can use, as its ONLY a 15% reduction. Stronger reductions should be infourced on the CORPORATE sector. Perhaps Mr. Rudd should take a holiday in Cuba to see how its done! Thankyou.

Natasja Sproat

Whilst climate change presents many challenges it has huge potential to help us focus our resources for a sustainable future. The government is doing a commendable thing in investing in infrastructure to help curb the social and economic impact of the financial crisis. Why not direct this infrastructure investment towards addressing current limitations in renewable energy technology and infrastructure that supports sustainable goals (both ecological and economic). For example

- Why invest in clean coal technology - once the coal is gone we will still need renewable sources of energy AND the technology is further behind than renewables. Unfortunately jobs will need to be reallocated in the coal industry but now is a great time to re-train people and develop new (renewable) industry
- Develop more infrastructure for public transport that will effectively and conveniently address commuter needs, creating jobs in the short term and enable improved QOL in a living city.
- Invest in mass renewables, such as wave and solar farms. Help mining and oil companies redirect resources to these goals
- Focus the education revolution on the education that will matter for the future - a sustainable future needs well trained and educated students - School curriculum should address this and funding should be provided for improved research through to grants to make commercial reality from the great ideas that already exist here and around the world.
- Legislative instruments to send clear economic signals about unsustainable activities and sustainable ones - incorporate the real cost of products via pollution taxes or similar instruments. The community will be easily swayed by costs to more sustainable items and companies will only move to incorporating lifecycle costs if all are on a level playing field
- Be a team player and work with the world to address this issue, set higher targets and allow actions of community to be realised by not imposing a floor for emissions. Industry needs support but this is not the right support to give. Put supports in place that bring industry closer to reducing GHG emissions not further away, eg investments/ grants for industries that realise above target reductions.

This isn't about which political party is right or wrong - the time has come for action on climate change and the political parties that don't step up to the challenge will find themselves alienated from an ever increasingly enlightened public - to which they ultimately answer.

Regards

Linda Walsh

It is clear that our government's target of 5-15% reduction in greenhouse pollution is woefully inadequate.

Is it worth bothering with any of this at all if the targets are not going to have any effective outcome?

I understand that Norway has committed to a 100% carbon neutral target in a very few years. If Australia can aim for a 50% reduction, that's a good start.

We need to commit to serious investment in clever industries and clean technologies. And the gradual phasing out of the coal industry as other energy technologies expand.

We need real incentives for consumers to reduce their own footprint.

We need strong advertising which reveals the true environmental costs of coal- and oil-based industries.

With thanks

Clare Herscovitch

Dear Sir/ Madam -

While I acknowledge that the Government has a mandate to introduce an emissions trading scheme, the CPRS has major problems which make it an unacceptable tool for preventing impending climate change disaster.

When it comes to the potential impacts of climate change, Australia is almost certainly the most vulnerable developed country, with our already harsh and variable climate, stressed rivers and heat-stressed crops. Our land of droughts and flooding rains is predicted to become even more unpredictable, with more severe droughts and more intense cyclones.

For these reasons, it is arguable that it is in Australia's national interest for effective global mitigation of climate change through real reductions in total emissions.

Unfortunately, the Rudd Government is continuing the work of previous Australian governments over the past 20 years to oppose this outcome. During this period Australia's per capita emissions have increased. In 1989, our per capita rate of carbon emissions was the 5th largest in the world. Today, we're number one.

There are five problems with the CPRS as it currently stands:

1. The target is a killer. The target must be much higher – like the 40% (below 1990 levels) that is now being recommended by climate scientists. If adopted globally, the 5-15% target would destroy the Great Barrier Reef, flood the homes of millions of people and drive perhaps a third of species to extinction.
2. The CPRS may not lead to any reductions. Under the proposed scheme, 'reduction' can be achieved merely by purchasing offsets with no limit on international credits. If these credits are generated by protecting existing forests, no real reduction in emissions will occur. This is particularly poor policy when offsets have been purchased by individuals to make up for international air travel, the emissions from which are not even counted in Australia's emissions total.
3. There is an emissions floor. Any reductions in emissions from individual initiatives (such as purchasing 100% Green Power and buying grid-connected solar power), will reduce demand for permits, driving down prices and enabling polluting industries to buy more and cheaper permits.
4. There's far too much compensation for the gross polluters. Emission-intensive trade-exposed industries (such as aluminium smelters located next to coal-fired power stations) will receive free permits, seriously undermining the carbon market. These free permits must be considered little more than protectionism (i.e. non-tariff barriers to trade).
5. The permits will be property rights. If the government wanted to increase the target at a later date, it would be forced to buy back permits rather than just cancelling them.

As it stands, the CPRS only creates the illusion of action to address climate change while in fact undermining voluntary efforts, rewarding big polluters and constraining future action and policies.

It just isn't good enough.
Janet Cavanaugh

Climate change is too big an issue to not do everything we can to try and ensure that our children, grand children and future generations have a world that they can enjoy and that is capable of providing food and water to all.

The Government's 5-15% target is not at all adequate to avoid dangerous climate change. We should instead commit to reducing Australia's greenhouse pollution 50% by 2020 (on 1990 levels).

Because the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme 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. I believe this is the wrong approach.

Setting a strong target with a well-designed scheme will ensure Australia does its fair share to avoid dangerous climate change, and it will also help refocus our economy to take advantage of new growth industries in renewable energy.

Carolyne Cohn

I emailed the Prime Minister to register my disbelief at the poor 5-15% target when it was announced. I still wonder "why bother?". My disbelief is even stronger now, as we see more information, data and expressions of concern from the scientific community about the increasingly dire position we are heading towards.

I understand the economic problems the government and all of us are confronted with - but, we cannot allow that to distort the best possible approach to giving ourselves and our children a chance to live, and to live in a comfortable world.

Peter Morgan

I send this submission, not as some sort of lunatic fringe, but as a doctor of physical chemistry who worked just down the hall from the early work on ozone depletion and CO2 emissions/global warming at the Physical Chemistry Laboratory at Oxford.

We should have acted on this long ago and we are now committed to many unwanted effects of global warming - droughts, floods, storms/cyclones and all the impacts on lives and livelihoods that these have. People are dying now and every day we delay will cause more deaths. This is an emergency on a global scale.

We now live in a world where we can no longer ignore our global neighbours, but must cooperate. To bring this about will take great moral courage from our leadership. It requires setting targets which inspire AND get the job done. A suitable target would be zero emissions by 2020. Fanciful?! Maybe, but if we go for a target of 5-15% it will not challenge and it will probably be fudged as part of the normal political process. A bold target will get people really addressing the problem. We can keep up an intense effort and focus for ten years. If we try to do it over fifty years we will undoubtedly lose our way and commit many more to die unnecessarily.

By accepting a low target you will deliberately condemn many millions to die - many will be Australian, though nationality should matter little. Do you really want to have these deaths on your hands.

Stand up for what is right!

Dr. Steb Fisher

Dear Prime Minister

I am deeply concerned about the evidence emerging about the speed to which climate change is occurring, in particular the rate at which the Arctic ice is melting and the flow on consequences of this. I am writing to you as you have the power to do something to address this. It is hard not to feel cynical about what would motivate you to set targets at 5- 15% in the face of this scientific evidence. It makes me think that you don't have the moral courage that you showed in your initial months as Prime Minister.

I ask that you dig deep and think about the future of Australia beyond your political term and revise the targets that you have set to a 50% reduction by 2020. I would also like you to review your CPRS scheme as the advice I have is that it will do more harm than good as it benefits polluters at the expense of the environment.

There is no time to waste.

Kind Regards

Lise Pittman

I have a few questions that I am completely at a loss for an answer to as are all the people I have shared these questions with thus far:

- 1) why is the government not making the decisions and taking the leadership voters were promised?
- 2) How does the government honestly consider 5-15% an adequate commitment to reducing Australia's Greenhouse pollution?
- 3) Is the government aware of the commitments other first and many third world countries are making and utilising in many cases?
- 4) Does the Government not realise that the risk of inaction far outways the risk of action on climate change???

Please let me know.

evan

I would like to offer my point of view on the governments climate change policy. I believe the current policy of setting a cap and compensating business for reductions that citizens make is abhorrent.

The government needs to take industry to task at the first point and make them the key movers for change and thus providing the incentive for individuals to change. The current policy does not meet the current reality of massive global climate change especially with regard to the predicted melting of summer sea ice in the artic circle over the next 5 years. Please redesign the carbon pollution reduction scheme so that individuals can feel confident that the efforts they make will be rewarded and not eroded by the greed and laziness of industry to make effective change. The climate change target for co2 reductions needs to be higher at least in my view 50% by 2020. Such a strong target can only bring the radical and definite change needed to motivate the change necessary to prevent disastrous climate change, by helping the growth of the alternatives to carbon pollution in energy production. Thank you for your time

Yours sincerely

steven stewart

Dear government official, I am writing to you, because I don't believe our 5-15% pollution reduction target is adequate to avoid dangerous climate change. We should instead commit to reducing Australia's greenhouse pollution 50% by 2020 (on 1990 levels).

This does not seem an excessive amount and if better accessibility to alternative fuel sources was available this target should not be unreasonable.

The fact that a steady stream of new scientific findings is showing that climate change is happening much more quickly than previously thought, I believe that we should be making a greater effort to curb our country's negative impact on global warming.

Australia's weak target is undermining efforts to form crucial international agreement and must be improved before December's important UN Conference on Climate Change in Copenhagen. It is unreasonable that as a first world nation that we are not adequately attempting to reign in our consumption but are requesting countries with less resources to do it for us instead.

The Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS) currently proposed by the Government is a badly designed scheme that will do more harm than good. The scheme design over-compensates polluters at the expense of the community and environment. Setting a strong target with a well-designed scheme will ensure Australia does its fair share to avoid dangerous climate change, and it will also help refocus our economy to take advantage of new growth industries in renewable energy.

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.

Business should be more responsible for the effects their actions have on our planet and if anything should be made to match the commitment of the general community to make a difference to the environment.

I think this is especially important in a country where the effects of global warming are having a direct impact upon our lives, with the increase of droughts and salinity, bush fires, floods and other natural disasters. If we don't make more of an effort it could be disastrous for all the people living in this country, when the ability to grow crops or raise livestock becomes impossible due to environmental factors how do we expect to support our population. This at the very least should be enough of a concern to our government to instate a more reasonable target of a 50% reduction in our pollution output.

Thankyou Elise McLellan

Reduce oil based products range.

More seriousness placed on citizens reports by government agencies instead of them gathering data at times which conveniently don't support the statements of residents by coincidence in many cases I accept.

I suspect Industries have to lower their CEO and similar pay and focus on social responsibility attitudes in promotions to at least improve on the present pollution levels. While we have seen wonderful improvements over 100years I believe that present day environmental knowledge is not being fully heeded to cut pollution.

Why people in our industrial town still at times see white powder (probably alumina) or black dust (probably coal) so dense that they see it on their hands after a brief time of holding out their hand is a mystery to me. Industry spokespersons even produce data to show it is being monitored and reduced.

I cannot believe that with oil running out in the short term, in relation to the life of the planet, that new plastic products get patents.

Such things as cake tins and other kitchen utensils have suitable predecessors with longer lives. I can see benefits for microwave use which may save power but is that the case counting carbon greenhouse gases in production of the silicon and plastic cooking vessels used.

There seems an excess of range of products (plastic petrol and water containers as just 2 examples) in oil based products.

Are natural fibre shopping bags longer lasting and less polluting? Plastic bags replaced by green synthetic bags seems worse to me since the green bag is synthetic and reasonably fragile and must use more power to make than the plastic bags being replaced by them.

Excess packaging pollutes to simply be a marketing tool.

Excess use of preservatives/flavourings which are a huge health hazard must surely increase carbon pollution because they are in almost every prepared product with few exceptions.

Glenna Coleman

The Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme needs to have a vigorous target set for lowering greenhouse emissions - we need to act with integrity and strength as a nation and become a leader in the use of the CPRS - please make us proud of your actions and not ashamed - that is why we elected you and education and strong actions will help you stay in Government. LIASE WITH THE GREENS - pick their brains and use their knowledge about WHAT IS NECESSARY.

Yours in good faith,

Julie A Chapman

We require a strong target if we wish to protect our planets and our current lifestyles. You were given a mandate to take strong action on climate change. Please take this opportunity. You have my full support.

Regards Jane Oldfield

I think the greenhouse reduction targets that the Government has set are too low. The target of 5 to 15 % will not help in achieving an international agreement later this year - in fact it will undermine these efforts.

Australia is a wealthy country with a lot to lose (the driest continent outside of Antarctica) if climate change is allowed to run out of control - witness the Victorian bushfires back in February and Melbourne's water supply at record low levels.

I believe also that the CPRS is badly designed in that efforts individuals make will only help big polluters to increase their emissions. This is because the CPRS imposes a floor below which emissions cannot fall.

Scientists predictions are getting more dire by the day. We cannot "muck around" - already predictions are that Arctic sea ice will have disappeared within 5 years time. Setting a strong target will improve our economy by helping new industries like solar and wind expand.

Please take a strong stand!!

Yours sincerely ,

John Moore

I am absolutely disgusted with the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS) proposed by the Government. 5 to 15%, you have to be kidding that is almost worse than doing nothing!! Is the Government completely out of touch with the most recent scientific findings?? A strong well designed scheme is what is needed, NOW, oh but of course, Mr. Rudd will probably not be around to see the damage that his policy will cause. Please don't make the mistake of thinking that I am a young rabble rouser, I am a 66 year old retiree and I am extremely concerned by the paltry CPRS suggested by the Government. We do not need this badly designed scheme, we need major polluters to clean up their act using some of their massive incomes.

Yours Sincerely

Pat Armfield

i am appauled that the Government has only set a 5-15% target for green house emissions. This is NOT GOOD ENOUGH. Everyday we hear with horror a steady stream of new scientific findings that climate change is happening much more quickly than previously believed. We have less than five years before the Arcit summer sea ice will have melted entirely.

So let us set a much stronger target with a well designed scheme to ensure Australia does its fair share to avoid dangerous climate change and also help to refocus our economy and take advantage of new growth industries in renewable energy.

Do something and do it now.

Jan Oldham

please change the climate its starting to get a wee bit hotter down here. If you dont act now then we might as well head south were its cooler.However its not safe anywhere as the increase in temperature increases instability in our weather patterns and servere storms will develope more often. Do you have any suggestions?

regards Jeff

dear gentlemen and ladies of our national parliament please stop the mealy mouthed excuses for not taking the actions we need to take to avoid the dangerous consequences of human caused climate change. The science is effectively in and the great majority of new data only serves to underline the overly cautious nature of the UN's climate committee's projections. The sceptics can only be placed into that sad collective otherwise known as.. " those who will not see". I am strongly opposed to the current plans of basically giving away billions of dollars to the very industry which has caused much of the present mess. This fiscal idiocy carries forward for many years to come and in fact gets worse as the years unfold. I strongly support an effective carbon tax without offsets and excisions. The tax should also apply to all imports with known carbon costs. The receipts should be used to subsidise truly renewable power sources and abatement strategies.

Yours sincerely Stephen Byrnes

I am alarmed at the inadequate targets and measures being proposed by the Government to reduce Australia's Greenhouse emissions.

As a private individual I have taken my own steps to minimize my impact on climate change, including selling my car, and being involved in raising awareness in my own community. I have found that there is already a high level of concern in the community about climate change and an expectation that the Australian government should act immediately to avoid further damage to our climate.

The efforts of the community and private individuals should be at least matched by the Government, and by private industry. The current CPRS does not target the major polluters - as I understand it my actions towards a reduction in climate change will actually INCREASE climate change by allowing large companies to increase their emissions.

I strongly urge that:

- the Government redesign the CPRS so that it targets the major polluters in the community.
- the current targets are raised substantially - 5-15% is completely inadequate.

Thank you.

Regards

Elizabeth Saunders

It has been plain to the man-in-the-street for a number of years now that the scientific predictions about the extent and effect of climate change have consistently underestimated the size of the problem. It is reasonable to assume that this situation is still the case. Despite the dire assessments currently accepted it is a distinct possibility that worse is yet to come.

We desperately need a strong well-designed system that makes a real contribution to achieving realistic targets. It is imperative that Australia show the world that this issue **MUST BE ADDRESSED IMMEDIATELY AND EFFECTIVELY.**

Richard Sarell
18 Clendon Road,

Dear Senate,

I urge you to reject the government's proposed 5-15% target in carbon emissions as unacceptably weak, and to demand a far greater commitment in order to help stave off dangerous climate change.

Based on the 1990 levels, Australia should look at committing to reduce Australia's greenhouse pollution levels by 50% by 2020. It is essential that we make vast improvements before December's important UN Conference on Climate Change, as we have a responsibility to help secure crucial international agreement, rather than undermine it with weak targets for our nation.

I am particularly alarmed at the way the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme has been designed, so that we, as a country, are effectively 'capped' at those weak levels. Those of us who are trying to reduce our own emissions at home or in the workplace, will simply allow existing polluters to further increase their emissions as ours decrease. As an individual, this is a horriously disempowering situation. How can I tell my children I have done everything to preserve the environment for them, when the government's own scheme simply uses my efforts to enable other Australian polluters to pollute more freely?

Moreover, this is not an issue that we can afford to deal with slowly. More and more scientific evidence suggests that not only is climate change happening, but it is occurring faster than previously thought. The Arctic summer sea ice is now expected to melt entirely within the next five years. The implications for peoples all around the world are staggering.

Please ensure that our government is forced to take responsible action on this issue, and live up to its election promises.

Our future, and the future of the world and its people, is literally in your hands.

Adele Shelley

Dear Sir / Madam,

I am writing to express my extreme concern that the Government's 5-15% target is not at all adequate to avoid dangerous climate change. The reason I voted for the current government was because I trusted they would take drastic action on this issue. I have been left seriously underwhelmed.

We should instead commit to reducing Australia's greenhouse pollution 50% by 2020 (on 1990 levels).

Scientific findings show that climate change is happening much more quickly than previously thought. This means we have to act now.

The Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS) currently proposed by the Government is a badly designed scheme that will do more harm than good.

Setting a strong target with a well-designed scheme will ensure Australia does its fair share to avoid dangerous climate change, and it will also help refocus our economy to take advantage of new growth industries in renewable energy.

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.

Action on addressing Climate Change is the main issue which sways my vote, please make me proud of my decision.

Sincerely,

Donna Wiltshire

I feel so powerless as all I can do is plead with the government I elected to please make more positive changes for our world. Please stop the pulp mill from going ahead in tasmania. It puts the precious trees that help absorb pollution at risk. The only thing anyone gets out of this is money and money is not the issue for the polar bears who may well be extinct if we don't drastically reduce our polluting ways. How about setting up some solar power stations? Government buildings could be powered by solar. What about tidal power. I don't mind living a simpler life and having less money if it means saving our beautiful world. Please up your target to reduce pollution.

Sally Novak

Please show leadership and creative thinking on this subject and dont think that caving into carbon lobby is consensual politics or will save jobs in the medium or long term.

You need to create a future fund with enough money to plan and execute a plan for green economy and jobs and put less faith in clean coal technology.

The strong indications are that the community is ahead of the government on this issue and will support higher costs and changed lifestyle if they believe the process is being managed credibly and properly aligned to targets

thanks for the opportunity to comment.

I have been disappointed on Labor's performance on this issue.

You need to take the public response very seriously.

amanda walton

The Government needs to rethink its Greenhouse Targets,urgently.

The Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme which is currently proposed is not well designed and will do more harm than good because it over-compensates polluters at the expense of the environment.

Setting a strong target with a well designed scheme will ensure Australia does its fair share to avoid dangerous climate change and it will also help refocus our economy to take advantage of new growth industries in renewable energy.

New scientific findings are showing that climate change is happening more quickly than previously thought. The recent collapse of an Antarctic ice shelf is an example.

Because the CPRS imposes a floor beyond which emissions cannot fall, the action individuals and small businesses take to reduce energy will not reduce our 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.

Mary Monteith

To the Inquiry,

The 5-15% target set by the government was criminally inadequate, and this is all the more apparent according to recent data showing climate change is happening even faster than predicted.

It is incredible that the government's CPRS scheme makes individuals' efforts to reduce emissions virtually meaningless as industry can then then increase their emissions - what a wholly pathetic scheme.

It seems that reducing emissions will make life a bit tougher for many of us in the near future, but not reducing them will make the planet unlivable for millions in the not too distant future.

We in the Western world have been living beyond our carbon means for decades; and the harsh truth is that the planet cannot sustain our lifestyles. Now is the time to address this - we are already running late!

We in the Western world must set the example - please do the right thing by everyone.

- Peter Vadiveloo

Dear Minister for the Environemnt,

I applaud Labour on your work so far in combatting the effects of climate change since coming into power. It warmed my heart to see the Kyoto Agreement signed. However I am deeply disappointed by your miserable target of a 5 - 15 % reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. I think we can do so much better than this. Many members of the Australian public are already making significant changes to the way they live their lives to reduce their impact on the environment and are looking towards their leaders to do the same. Please increase the target to 50% by 2020, and give us a strong feeling that our country cares for the environment as much as we as individuals do. We need to be united on this.

Regards Suzi Yuki

I am writing to encourage the government to commit to reducing Australia's greenhouse pollution by 50% by 2020.

It is near on impossible to deny how quickly climate change is happening and I feel Australia's current weak target is undermining efforts to form crucial international agreement and must be improved before the UN Conference on Climate Change in Copenhagen.

If Australia sets a strong target with a well-designed scheme it will ensure we do our bit to avoid dangerous climate change, and it will also help refocus our economy to take advantage of new growth industries in renewable energy.

I implore the Government to act with strength and compassion on this matter.

Regards,

Trent Roberts

Many thanks for the opportunity to comment on the Federal Government proposed climate change policy and its associated Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme.

Lately, there has been a steady stream of new scientific findings, which show that climate change is happening much more quickly than previously thought. For instance, the Arctic summer sea ice is now expected to melt entirely within the next five years and some of the iceshelves in Antarctica are disintegrating a lot sooner than had been predicted.

This is why the Government's 5-15% target is not at all adequate to avoid dangerous climate change. We should instead commit to reducing Australia's greenhouse pollution by 50% (on 1990 levels) by 2020. The weak target of 5-15% set by the Government is undermining current efforts to form crucial international agreement and must be improved before December's important UN Conference on Climate Change in Copenhagen.

Furthermore, the associated Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS), which is currently proposed by the Government as a mean to reduce CO2 emissions, is a badly designed scheme that will do more harm than good. Whether intentionally or not, the design of the scheme over-compensates polluters at the expense of the community and environment. Indeed, because the CPRS imposes a floor beyond which emissions cannot fall, the action which individuals and small businesses take to reduce their CO2 emissions will not reduce Australia's total greenhouse gas emissions further than the Government's proposed weak target of 5-15%. In fact their action will only make room for industry to increase their emissions under that cap.

If instead the Government was setting a strong CO2 reduction target within a well-designed scheme, it would not only ensure that Australia does its fair share to avoid dangerous climate change, but it would also help refocus our economy to take advantage of new growth industries in renewable energy. Furthermore, rather than relying on market mechanism to achieve its aim, the Government should introduce a well targeted carbon tax to bring about the drastic reductions in CO2 emissions which are necessary if we are to avoid dangerous climate change. The principle of intergenerational justice requires no less from us at this critical point in time.

Regards

Michel Beuchat

Dear GetUp

I am appalled at the diminished target figures on greenhouse reduction. From a figure of 20% reduction in emissions recommended by the Garnaut report, the Federal Government has cowardly reduced that to a meagre 5%, which is irresponsible, and ineffectual in making a difference to the climate change.

The Federal Government has a great opportunity to show leadership on this issue of global and national urgency. Our weak target on emissions reductions makes us a laughing stock in the international community. It is imperative that the emissions reduction targets are reset. We should show progressive leadership by committing to reducing greenhouse gases by 50% by 2020 - at least!

Regards

Sophie Knezic

To Whom It May Concern,

I just wanted to write and share my frustration and disappointment with the current federal government's CPRS. My friends and I have been sharing many angry and sad conversations about the Rudd governments "Howard Lite" climate change policies. Signing the Kyoto Protocol made me believe that this new government was serious about minimising the impact that we are having on the environment, especially in regard to greenhouse gas emissions and global warming. But the CPRS as planned has changed all that.

The pathetic target 5-15% target has no scientific support whatsoever. We must set a decent target of 50% reduction by 2020 (based on 1990 levels). Australia's temperature has already increased 0.75 degrees C in the last 15 years. We are on track to see the conditions that allowed the bushfires in Victoria this year to come back every summer. I have been personally working very hard to reduce my carbon footprint (eg the vege patch, insulation, the solar hot water system, changing the light globes, riding to work, eating less meat etc etc) and can't believe that under the planned scheme my personal actions will mean nothing. They will just leave room for industry to INCREASE emissions. I beg those with the power to make these decisions to rethink the target and scheme as it stands and allow Australia to show its face at Copenhagen.

I live in Newcastle and I would like to see the rise of a new green economy in this region. A well designed CPRS, with an appropriately strong target, will see us with burgeoning renewable energy industries rather than exporting climate change to the rest of the world. Please help us to help the world.

With hope
Dr Emma Campbell

Hi,

The amounts of money being thrown at the financial crisis illustrates the insincerity of the excuses about the cost of sustainability. It's time we disregard the US and China's inaction on climate change and took some action.

We must make more effort than other nations because this continent is not suited to human civilization. Farming was the allowed the human race the luxury of spare time. This spare time was spent creating technology. For this reason the aboriginals never had any great technology before European civilization. The technology developed in more fertile lands was brought here to allow civilization. We are committed to the colonies here and cannot relocate to a more fertile land. For this reason we have a responsibility to make these colonies have equal per capita carbon footprint that we expect of any other nation. We do not deserve special consideration for living in a less hospitable environment than other nations. We have too much technology at our finger tips to consider ourselves victims of our situation.

Procrastination is costing us in the long term, it is short sighted and irresponsible. We need political parties willing to lead for the future beyond the next election. This procrastination is largely driven by the flow of money from the private sector combined with the self-centered attitudes which are disturbingly prevalent in voters. On the first point we need all political donations from the private sector to be banned. There is no reason why campaigns shouldn't have fixed budgets from tax money. It would level the playing field and remove special interests.

The time for action is now!

Regards,

-Peter Stirling

To make enough of a difference, we need to aim for a minimum of 50% reduction in green house pollution by 2020. 5 - 15% will NOT be enough. I implore you to reconsider and increase the target.

Yours Sincerely

Jo Booth

Dear Members of Climate Change Inquiry,

The issue of climate change is a great disaster, confronting Australia and the world generally. While there is debate about the role of human contribution, the vast majority of scientists believe we **MUST** limit greenhouse gas emissions. The effort needed must even surpass any previous war efforts. The present pathetic targets commit our children and grandchildren to declining global health and prosperity. Please make safe and practical recommendations.

John Smart

In my lifetime in the bush, I have seen changes in weather patterns, the growth of plants and the decline of species that have made me very nervous indeed for the future. Your response is not serious enough and I am asking that you institute plans for reduction of Australia's greenhouse pollution of 50 percent by 2020. I probably won't be around, but my grandchildren will, and we are leaving them a dreadful legacy. I voted for you mostly because I believed you would do a better job of dealing with this huge crisis, but thus far I am not impressed.

Valerie Ross-Wilson

I am at a loss to comprehend why the government sees it acceptable to let our environment deteriorate to a point where so many lives will be effected.
The current target is not sufficient by any means to keep this world, which we are all sharing and completely dependent on from such devastating changes.
This should be all governments top priority and you should be doing everything in your power to prevent this looming future, as it is vital to our future as a species that we have a stable environment in which to live!

Ella Dupree

For the sake of my grandchildren and the planet it is important that Australia adopts robust pollution reduction targets. I am no expert but I can read the input from a vast majority of scientists and our own CSIRO that support a much stronger target than the government's proposed 5/15%. I hope the senate's enquiry will clearly demonstrate the inadequacy of the government's current plans and open up the opportunity for stronger, more realistic targets.

Michael Gillian

Climate change should be a people's movement. It is people who work in business big and small, and it is people who are the end beneficiaries of the output of business. If we do not personalise climate change by making it possible for all of us to help contribute to cutting Aussies emissions, we will stagnate in our attempts to cut greenhouse gasses while debating the effectiveness of the CPRS in sectors most of us dont understand. It is people who make a difference, not boards of directors whose responsibility is toward shareholders and profit margins. Corporations are reactive to externalities only when they manifest themselves by reducing profit. They will not help us change!

Climate change is a massive elephant of which we see only the trunk reaching down to touch our lives through the media. Dont be oblivious to our real responsibilities for our children and every other species on the planet (except maybe cockroaches - they will probably flourish). Get up and make me proud of belonging to a country with a backbone, rather than a country happy to cash in on the ingredients of a hot (or possibly really cold) planet (ie. coal).

Yours truly

Geordie Kuzniarski

PS. If you dont up the CPRS emission target i will not be voting for you next election. This is the single biggest issue facing our planet. Please do something to encourage us to action!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

To whom it may concern,

I would like to express my opinion that we should try for BETTER targets than the ones being proposed. There should be no half measures with the environment, especially not in the state that is currently in. I realise that it is a fine line between keeping businesses happy and doing what is right for the environment - but quite frankly, I don't think now is a good time to care about businesses that are only too happy to make a profit at the expense of our environment.

Although I appreciate that this government at least acknowledges the existence of global warming, unlike one John Howard, there is still much room for improvement, and that improvement should be done A.S.A.P before there is no going back!

As a young person, I believe that we should be looking to the future, further than we are - our climate/environment might stand up for now, but there is no doubt in my mind that if we don't take drastic action, we will pass the point of no return. I hope that we never get to the stage where crocodiles live in the Arctic and Antarctic.

During this crisis we MUST NOT look to the U.S. We must ourselves set an example for other countries, by creating strong targets, by showing that we care for the environment.

Money should not come before the state of the environment, no matter what. If we let it, soon there will be no one to use the money.

Regards,

Emily Barnes

As a middle aged middle income Australian I urge you to aim much higher in terms of Green House Gas Emissions.

I would much prefer the government to place a huge focus on renewable energy research and development rather than propping up old fashioned fossil fuel technology. I understand that this will personally cost me more but for the sake of my children's, and the next generation's, future please take the harder option immediately. The time has never been better politically. So just get on with it! We all know it's going to hurt but your present course is not at all rational or realistic in the longer (or even short) term. Do more, do it now.

Regards
John Remfry

This thing is in urgent need of changing to something meaningful and something that will work.

Graham Brown

As an informed member of the voting public, I wish to voice my utter disdain for the pathetic, token "carbon" emission control gestures made by the Federal Labor Gov. Given that our greenhouse emissions are continuing to escalate despite increasing evidence of the frightening consequences, the only rational response is to set worst-case-scenario targets (precautionary principle) with strong caps. The current approach is farcically inadequate. Hope the members of today's Governments (from municipal to federal) live long enough to suffer the inevitable consequences of their failure of courage:(

Anne Mason

Dear Senators

I have already made a submission via email via the Greens MPs website.

I just wish to add that I am ashamed of Australia's inability to rise to the challenge and adopt the necessary targets and measures to reach them. Where is leadership, vision. How can we hold our heads up high and proud in Copenhagen?

We may be 'reliant on coal' but we don't need to be! We have alternatives that many other countries do not have including a large land mass with huge solar, wind, wave, geothermal possibilities.

Look at the opportunities to transform the economy and our energy system.

I want to see the CPRS and Climate Policy based on what the science community around the globe is telling us, not based on popularity contests/populism and the lowest common denominator, nor lobby groups and big emitters.

5% is ludicrous. It is better to get it right than continue on a path to adopt a flawed, weak system that will not make a difference.

Sincerely

Annalisa Koeman

Don't allow the pressures from the big companies take you away from what you know needs to be happening. Think of of your own children and their children and so on down the line for 7 generations , what you wish the world to be like for them and what we need to be doing now to help ensure that our wish for a good future for these our descendants.

Act strongly to get us out of the mess we are creating.

Best wishes

Bev Henwood

To Whom it May Concern,

On hearing the 5-15% target to reduce Australia's Greenhouse Emissions, this is just not effective for real change.

Climate Chnge is taking effect faster than predicted with Sea Levels rising and extreme temperatures causing bushfires.

My appeal is that Australia commits to reducing our greenhouse pollution 50% by 2020, to meet international targets at the UN Conference on Climate Change in Copenhagen in December.

Thank You.

Yours Sincerely,

Linda Torchia

I am deeply concerned about climate change and the Government's disappointing response to addressing this issue.

The Commonwealth Government's proposed 5-15% emissions reduction target is far too low. The Government should commit to an emissions reduction target of 50% by 2020.

Further, the flawed design of the proposed CPRS, which allocates free permits to the biggest greenhouse gas polluters and renders individual/household/small business efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions irrelevant, must be corrected.

It is critical to the Government's international reputation - and more importantly to the future of us all - that this pitifully low target is significantly increased before the UN Conference in Copenhagen.

Yours sincerely

Gervase McKinna

It's not enough! Climate change is happening faster than anticipated. We need really swift and radical action and the community is wanting a better response from the government. The CPRS just seems to compensate polluters and not contribute to a reduction in greenhouse gases, which is an essential if we are to avoid catastrophe.

It can be done, and people want the Govt to be strong on this.

Cheers,
Barbara Finch

Dear Mr Rudd,

Or grand children will condemn this generation for not having the guts to make a massive difference just because it ould cost a lot in terms of dollars.

Paul Gleeson

I am very concerned that there has not been an adequate target for reducing greenhouse pollution. As indicated by the melting sea ice in the Arctic, the sea level will be rising even more rapidly. This will effect all seaside suburbs around the Australian coast!! How many people will be displaced-any figures?

I feel there will be a massive claim against the Government as coastal towns have to be relocated. All Australians are becoming very anxious- please change your Climate Policy to a larger target immediately!

The future citizens of this marvellous country are very concerned!!!

Very concerned citizen....
M.Korosi

It is desperately important that the proposed greenhouse targets be increased dramatically, if we do not want to leave our children with an earth that can't support them, war, famine and disease increasing devastation. The targets should follow the science, and the CPRS should be designed to encourage individual change as well as corporate change, without overcompensating polluters.

Again, a much deeper cut in emissions is required.

Yours

Terri Southwell

Dear Mr Rudd

I am writing this submission on behalf of millions of people who are at risk of losing their lands, their jobs and to some their life.

%-15% target will not be enough to offset the devastation that our fuel hungry society will cause. Climate change is real, its happening faster than anticipated and the consequences for not acting are predicted to be much much worse than first thought. Australians are going to be hit hard and if there is such thing as karme then we deserve it! Get real on climate change Mr Rudd. How can we expect other countries to do the right thing if we can't lead by example. I am embarrassed to be an Australian now. Thats sad. Get Real. Stop logging our Old growth forests. Undertake big plantations like other countries are doing. Get real before its too late. New jobs will come but once the rains stop aand the temperatures soar we wont even be able to feed ourselves. The global temp only has to go up another 1 degree and then its too late. We wont be able to stop it. HMM maybe thats what the Mayan culture was predicting!

Get Real Mr Rudd. Minimum of 50% reduction of 1990 levels for 2020. WE CAN DO IT.

Yours sincerely

Robert Scalzo

Dear Prime Minister,

When we elected you we were confident that you would really tackle the carbon emissions by Australia head on with world leading targets. We were devastated when the 5% target came out. a real flop! Please let Australia get back in front and lead the world. Even the Us has taken a lead and we lag way behind. There's plenty of evidence and more each day showing ways we can generate clean power. Lets go for it!

Ron Smith

To whom it may concern,

The world we live in is the most precious thing we have. Without it we cannot live and if we do not take the measures to take care of it properly soon we will not be able to live in it anymore.

The world is changing drastically around us and our societies have to change just as drastically in response so that we can save this world and ourselves and be able to live on happily.

The CPRS is most definitely NOT doing enough and not only is this undermining the greater goodwill of the world but it is setting the scene for disaster in future years. IF we want to be able to live comfortably, healthily and relatively cheaply, then we MOST DEFINITELY need to alter this scheme so that the disgusting industries change their outputs drastically. I can understand that there IS great demand for cars and many other types of machines and products around the world, and there IS a financial crisis going on at the moment, but this should not stop any nation state from taking serious action on the environmental front.

I'm BEGGING you, please, please, please redesign this scheme so that targets are much higher and standards brought up.

I need it, You need it, We need it. Do not ignore this plea.

Do not disregard the power of the public. We love our environment and this world, so please do more to save it.

Ms.Vandenberg

The Rudd Government's rhetoric regarding Environmental Policy appears to be, more than ever, just talk. The 5-15% target is hopelessly insufficient and the design of the CPRS is intrinsically flawed. To remove all incentives for individuals to take any action is a disgrace and an insult to all Australian citizens. It completely undermines all the positive educational messages that we are trying to pass on to our children. For years we have heard and encouraged educational messages that promote the idea that everyone can help in some small way to make a big change. This government's policy destroys that argument and totally disempowers all Australians on this most important of issues. I would have to state categorically that this policy is by far the most damaging proposal that Kevin Rudd's government have put forward. It is something that most of us might have expected from Mr Howard and goes to show how shallow and misleading the Rudd government's signing of the Kyoto treaty

and other cheap symbolic acts. Whatever the targets are, polluters must be made to pay and individual as well as corporate efforts to cut emissions must be made to count.

Yours Sincerely,
Jon Graham

To Whom It May Concern,

I am concerned we are at, if not past the "tipping point" for action on climate change. It may already be too late. If we are going to do something then it should be a committed response, not a token effort hoping this whole thing will go away.

The Government's 5-15% target is not at all adequate to avoid dangerous climate change. We should instead commit to reducing Australia's greenhouse pollution 50% by 2020 (on 1990 levels).

concerned Australian

N.Jarvis

I voted against the Howard government because of their stale and old school attitude to several major issues, mainly climate change. I have to say that the Rudd Labour government is proving to be Howard's equal on conservatism and I feel duped. They were so modern and forward thinking at election time.

I really, really wish that Australia could be a leader in finding creative ways to mobilise its population into independence from fossil fuels, and consciousness of our energy extravagance.

Mick Verrier

Please, Please, Please for our childrens children...

Help to reduce Australia's greenhouse pollution by 50% by 2020. This may sound big but it's what needs to be done. Every one can be involved and every little step taken helps.

I would like to see more incentives and rebates for sustainable energy like solar and wind power.

Thank you,

Kirrah Holborn

Please review the targets to cut greenhouse pollution without delay. The targets should be more like 50% by the year 2020. This is essential to avoid a future of more frequent and extreme weather events including deadly bushfires, floods and cyclones. We need to leave a habitable place for our children. The economy is meaningless without a home. We can have both by all of us, including and especially the big manufacturers, doing our share to alleviate climate change caused by polluting methods of manufacture and living.

Strong action on climate change will create millions of new green jobs driving investment into renewable energy. Jobs will not be destroyed but refocused with a small investment now for a long term gain in many respects.

I look forward to your change in direction to address climate change without delay.

Regards,

Peter Hunt

The Australian government needs to set a much more realistic co2 reduction scheme-15% should be the minimum and at least 20% the aim by 20%. The money gained can feed into green energy projects which are often labour intensive and thus , with focussed training, can nprovide vital employment which our ailing ecocomy needs. The over compensation of energy polluters of the present scheme, and the floor beyond which emissions cannot fall, means efforts made by individuals, households (encouraged by your govt)small businesses will just give the big emitters room to increase thier emissions. This seems both illogical and unfair-and worse-ineffective.

Australia may not be a big polluter overall but on an individual scale it is as big or bigger that the US- the worst per capital in the world!! How can we , with conscience, call on others to act and use their non action as an excuse not to act,without being seen as hypocital? Don't we have to DO what we say-not just say what we say?

Action only will have an impact. We can do something. Would it not be great if Australia with its small population had the best carbon reduction than any other country.

Alternative energy plants ILL have to replace coal-leave it in the ground for the next ice age and train up those entrepreneurs and workers in alternative schemes which work already-and which with money spent on their research can quickly become more efficient and we can import THESE technologies to the world.

Yours faithfully,
Penny Forth

I am extremely disappointed at the weak climate change policy of this government. One only has to read the almost daily news about worsening predictions on climate change to know that only a massive reduction in carbon emissions will help halt global warming. It is also clear that, by leading the way in alternative energy use, there is an opportunity for economic growth and more jobs.

We have installed solar panels and solar hot water and it dismays me to think that this may simply allow businesses and other organisations to pollute more.

Why isn't Australia leading the way on this vital issue?

Clare Conway

I would like the government to commit to a minimum 40% climate change target by the year 2020. This appears particularly necessary given the increased level of evidence indicating that climate change is occurring more rapidly than previously thought.

By committing to higher targets Australia could become a model and example for other nations to follow. It appeared that initially this is what the government was hoping to do but changed its mind. This is an opportunity for the Rudd Labour Government to develop green technologies and once more be one of the leading countries in such technology (as used to be the case before the Howard Liberal Government).

It would appear that the Government has reneged on its previous commitment to cater for large company polluters.

I hope you will reconsider your targets.

Yours faithfully

Mariette Maclurcan

The Australian commitment to carbon reductions is too soft. We need to make the changes necessary NOW. The future is not so far away and there is no time left for a gently gently approach.

Raise the price of petrol so it hurts people to use the cars and at the same time increase public transport spending and availability. force us to make changes now.

Setting a strong target with a well-designed scheme will ensure Australia does its fair share to avoid dangerous climate change, and it will also help refocus our economy to take advantage of new growth industries in renewable energy.

I am also concerned that all my efforts at home to address my emissions are allowing other major polluters licence to continue their destructive practices.

My Children watch all the national geographics programme on climate change and its frightening, My 13 year old asks why it has gotten so bad and no-one seems to be doing anything. please do something Now. Climate change is happening Now. looking forward to more action!

Nicole Mattingley

Dear Senate enquiry

There are many Australians who are tired of the government bailing out an industry which is unsustainable. I'm talking about the meat and dairy industry.

* Excrement produced by chickens, pigs, and other farm animals: 16.6 billion tons per year - more than a million pounds per second (that's 60 times as much as is produced by the world's human population - farmed animals produce more waste in one day than the U.S. human population produces in 3½ years). This excrement is a major cause of air and water pollution. According to the United Nations: "The livestock sector is the largest sectoral source of water pollution, contributing to eutrophication, 'dead' zones in coastal areas, degradation of coral reefs, human health problems, emergence of antibiotic resistance and many others."

* Water used for farmed animals and irrigating feed crops: 240 trillion gallons per year- 7.5 million gallons per second (that's enough for every human to take 8 showers a day, or as much as is used by Europe, Africa, and South America combined). According to the UN: "[t]he water used by the sector exceeds 8 percent of the global human water use." As just one example, "[O]n average 990 litres of water are required to produce one litre of milk." So drinking milk instead of tap water requires almost 1,000 times as much water.

* Emissions of greenhouse gases from raising animals for food: The equivalent of 7.8 billion tons of carbon dioxide per year, according to the UN report. Concludes the UN: "The livestock sector is responsible for 18% of greenhouse gas emissions." That's about 40 percent more than all the cars, trucks, planes, trains, and ships in the world combined (transport is 13%). And "The sector emits 37% of anthropogenic methane (with 23 times the global warming potential-or GWP-of CO₂). It emits 65% of anthropogenic nitrous oxide (with 296 times the GWP of CO₂). These figures are based on the power of these gases over 100 years; in fact, over 20 years-a more important timeframe for dealing with global warming-methane and nitrous oxide are 72 times and 289 times more warming than CO₂. And Dr. Rajendra Pachauri, Chair of the IPCC (which shared the Nobel Peace Prize with Al Gore) has been saying that the 18% figure is probably an underestimate.

* It takes more than 11 times as much fossil fuel to make one calorie of animal protein as it does to make one calorie of plant protein.

* Soil erosion due to growing livestock feed: 40 billion tons per year (or 6 tons/year for every human being on the planet-of course if you don't eat meat, none of this is attributed to you; if you're in the U.S. where we eat lots more meat than most of the world, your contribution is many times greater than 6 tons/year). About 60% of soil that is washed away ends up in rivers, streams and lakes, making waterways more prone to flooding and to contamination from soil's fertilizers and pesticides. Erosion increases the amount of dust carried by wind, polluting the air and carrying infection and disease.

* Land used to raise animals for food: 10 billion acres. According to the UN: "In all, livestock production accounts for 70 percent of all agricultural land and 30 percent of the land surface of the planet." And "70 percent of previous forested land in the Amazon is occupied by pastures, and feedcrops cover a large part of the remainder." And "About 20 percent of the world's pastures and rangelands, with 73 percent of rangelands in dry areas, have been degraded to some extent, mostly through overgrazing, compaction and erosion created by livestock action."

* According to the UN, animal agriculture is a leading cause of water pollution. The main water pollutants in the US are sediments and nutrients. Animal agriculture is responsible for 55 percent of the erosion that causes sedimentation, and for a third of the main nutrient pollutants, nitrogen and phosphorus. On top of that, animal agriculture is the source of more than a third of the United States' water pollution from pesticides, and half of its water pollution from antibiotics.

* Livestock are also responsible for almost two-thirds of anthropogenic ammonia emissions, which contribute significantly to acid rain and acidification of ecosystems.

* Grain and corn raised for livestock feed that could otherwise feed people, according to the UN: 836 million tons per year (note that the more commonly used figure, 758 million tons, is metric). That's more than 7 times the amount used for biofuels and is much more than enough to adequately feed the 1.4 billion humans who are living in dire poverty, and the number doesn't even include the fact that almost all of the global soy crop (about 240 million tons of soy) is also fed to chickens, pigs, and other farmed animals.

* An American saves more global warming pollution by going vegan than by switching their car to a hybrid Prius.

* Razing the Amazon rainforest for pasture and feed crops: 5 million acres of Amazon per year. Former Amazon rainforest converted to raising animals for food since 1970 is more than 90% of all Amazon deforestation since 1970.

* According to the UN: "Indeed, the livestock sector may well be the leading player in the reduction of biodiversity." And "[l]ivestock now account for about 20 percent of the total terrestrial animal biomass, and the 30 percent of the earth's land surface that they now pre-empt was once habitat for wildlife." And "Conservation International has identified 35 global hotspots for biodiversity, characterized by exceptional levels of plant endemism and serious levels of habitat loss. Of these, 23 are reported to be affected by livestock production. An analysis of the authoritative World Conservation Union (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species shows that most of the world's threatened species are suffering habitat loss where livestock are a factor."

United Nations scientists, in their 408-page indictment of the meat industry, sum up these statistics, pointing out that the meat industry is "one of the . most significant contributors to the most serious environmental problems, at every scale from local to global," including "problems of land degradation, climate change and air pollution, water shortage and water pollution, and loss of biodiversity."

The above info is from an article by Kathy Freston.

Perhaps it's time to explore new directions for the Australian and global economy which does not involve animal agribusiness.

kind regards

Trisha Roberts

We should commit to reducing Australia's greenhouse pollution 50% by 2020 (on 1990 levels). The Government's 5-15% target is inadequate to avoid dangerous climate change.

A well-designed scheme with a strong target will ensure Australia does its fair share to avoid dangerous climate change, and it will also help refocus our economy to take advantage of new growth industries in renewable energy.

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.

Australia's weak target is undermining efforts to form crucial international agreement and must be improved before December's important UN Conference on Climate Change in Copenhagen.

Setting a strong target with a well-designed scheme will ensure Australia does its fair share to avoid dangerous climate change, and it will also help refocus our economy to take advantage of new growth industries in renewable energy.

Peter Johnstone

This is not good enough!

Sophie Fletcher Watson

Dubious 'clean coal' dodges will save fewer jobs than mushrooming solar technologies within a decade or so. New techniques pioneered in Australia should gain jobs, emission control and research skills (e.g.: plastic replacing costly silicon-based photo-electric surfaces.)

– Doug N Everingham MB, BS

Please defend human rights. We all need to have a say in what we care and choose for ourself and our loved ones anf futures for us and others.

Please help us defend human rights.

Kind Regards,

Katy.

I think 5_15% by 2020 is woefully inadequate for the dire environment situation we are in. The target should be 50% and a lot more emphasis should be put on reducing the use of fossil fuels rather than allowing polluters to trade for the right to produce it as usual.

there should be more investment in renewable and non-polluting sources, and the electric car, rather than carbon re-capture.

Thanks

Fiona Moran

Australia needs a realistic target for reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and needs to set a target of at least 20% if Australia is to be taken seriously.

The Labor Party seems to have reneged on its election promise to tackle climate change. A target of 5% is embarrassing, even Professor Ross Garnaut is suggesting that the Senate vote against this legislation.

So let's set a realistic target of at least 20% and take a leading role in world efforts to tackle this difficult challenge.

Peter Edwards

Hello,

It is clear that the current proposed target is nowhere near enough to avoid catastrophic climate change damage to our environment, future water requirements, longer term economic prospects, built environment, the GREAT BARRIER REEF and its tourism income, etc.

The scientifically determined suggestion of 50% reduction on 1990 levels of greenhouse pollution by 2020 should be seen as a minimum considering all the current indicators are tracking at the worst end of the predicted scale.

Australia has the most to lose from climate change (island nations aside) so should be leading by example, rather than undermining the efforts to negotiate the necessary targets with it's weak ones. Enough pandering to the big polluters - We can use that "compensation" money to really kick start a new alternate energy revolution.

How about using the economic stimulus package money to train up the unemployed to install solar systems and increase infrastructure in baseload solar thermal and other green power?

There should definitely be no floor to the CPRS which would waste individuals efforts to do the right thing.

Thank you for listening,
Ben McInnes, NSW 2577.

Come on, we can do without the shilly shallying.

Let's get committed on this very important policy and reduce Australia's greenhouse pollution 50% by 2020 (on 1990 levels).

The badly designed Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme that is currently proposed needs to be changed to one that will not overcompensate polluters at the expense of the community and the environment.

Strong Climate Action is needed.

Thank you,
Julie Jenkins

Dear Sur/Madam,

I thought I'd write to remind you that your govt was elected on the strtrong impression you gave that you would respect the environment. This means tackling such issues as climate change in an effective way.

You are not doing this. I realise that the global financial crisis was unforeseen and demands urgent attention, but unlessd the environmental concerns are addressed, there will be no point in working, as life will be unsustainable. The crisis provides a chance to improve our environmental standards, as the opportunity for you to act with foresight and set emission targets higher is available to you.

I do not care what other nations are doing on this front, I want to be proud of my country and know that we are doing all we can.The world needs a leader in this matter.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Stant

We have had over a decade of water trading. During this time the mess has become bigger, the problems more intractable. And yet we opt for ever more of the same. Water is not a commodity to be bought and sold, decoupled from the land. Neither is the air.

Cap and trade schemes are naive. A tax on pollution where all costs are included in a product is the only fair way. People and companies should not be able to externalise costs leaving the rest of us to pick up the tab.

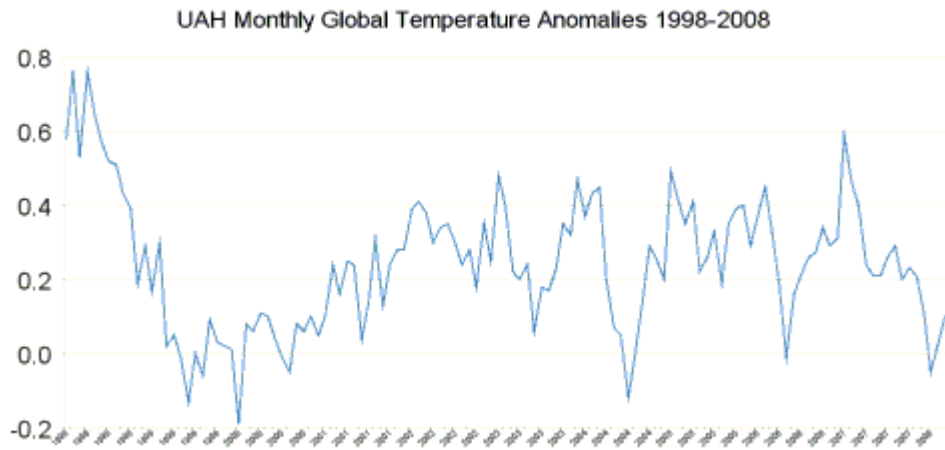
I would rather have no action now, than the scheme proposed.

Steve Posselt

The modelled affects of climate change to date have not produced any accurate predictions.

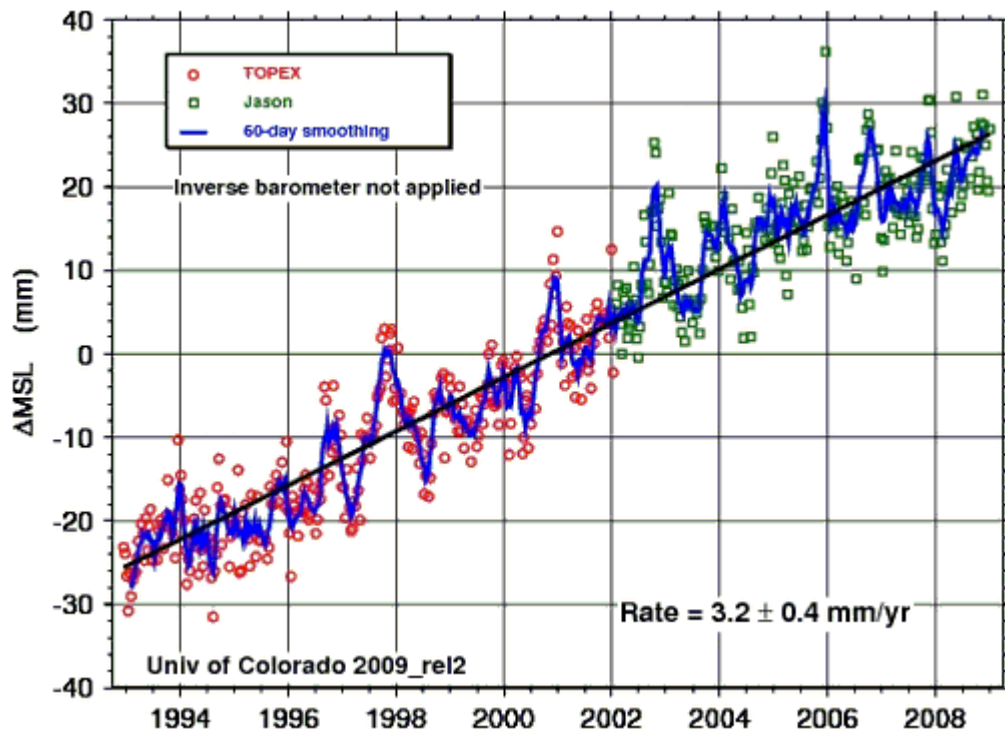
The cooling since 1998 was not predicted.

http://www.theregister.co.uk/2008/05/02/a_tale_of_two_thermometers/



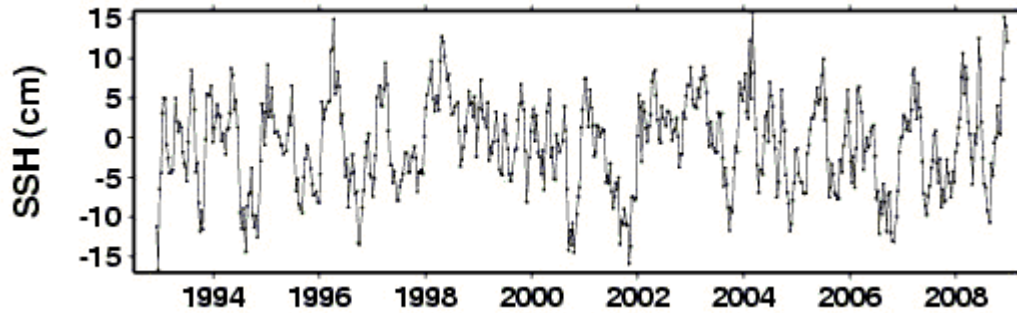
The slowing of the historic rise in sea level in the last 3 years was not predicted.

<http://sealevel.colorado.edu/>

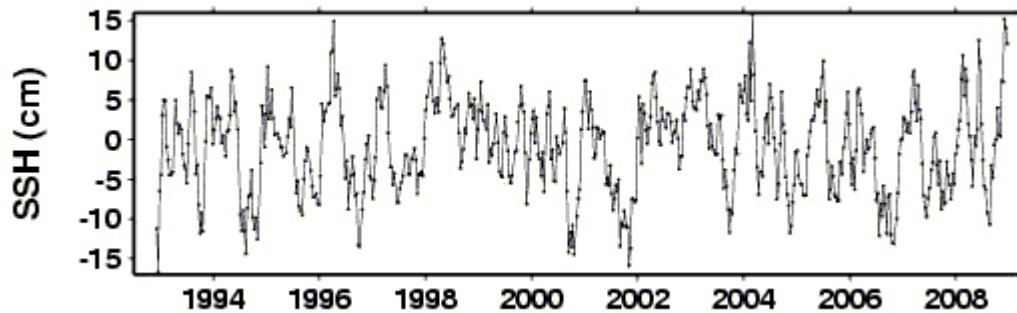


From <http://sealevel.colorado.edu/wizard.php> one can select a site any where on the globe to check Satellite level measurements.

If I select a place just off Australia it is hard to see any change since 1994;



If I select near the Maldives they look pretty safe as well.



It was warmer in the Roman and Medieval times than now.

The Science we have today is the result of many previous positions of majority view being overturned, sometimes by accumulated evidence to the contrary, sometimes by the efforts of an individual, such as Albert Einstein or Alfred Wegener. In Australia Professor Barry Marshall and Dr Robin Warren jointly awarded the Noel prize in physiology or medicine in 2005 'for the discovery of the bacterium *Helicobacter pylori* and its role in gastritis and peptic ulcer disease. This discovery went against all conventional wisdom at the time.

A majority/popular view in science is not science, it is a popular view. It becomes science when that view or theory can be useful to interpret the past or predict the future with some level of accuracy.

In the 1968 Paul Erlich's book *The Population Bomb* was full of Malthusian predictions that have not come true in the time span he predicted, notwithstanding the increase in world population from 3.7 billion to 6.6.

We are still in the throws of a generally unforeseen Global Financial crisis. Notwithstanding all those MBA's and computer modelling giving AAA rating to securitised funds which have since become worthless. I would have thought by now there would be a bit more humility shown when making predictions, even near term based on modelling, whether economic or Climate change.

I suggest the Senate only vote for an ETS when the following preconditions are met:

- 1) There is a model (that is one model) that is CO2 sensitive that can make accurate predictions.
The assumptions of the model be fully documented, for clouds, solar cycles, decadal ocean cycles, day and night, lunar cycles etc
This model will need to be published so that others can verify it.
Todate this has not been achieved.
- 2) International agreements have to have been put in place that do not cause a transference of employment from Australia to other countries.
- 3) I always thought Green jobs was about Forestry and Agriculture, not any more.

There are many good reasons to have more Solar and Wind power. But when the Sun does not shine and the Wind does not blow the power needs to come from somewhere.

Many claims are made about Green jobs in Windfarms and Solar panels etc, but is that really the case.

Terry McCrann documents Denmark's experience with Wind power
<http://www.news.com.au/heraldsun/story/0,21985,25537952-664,00.html>

- 4) The IPCC be viewed with a little less awe and a bit more sceptism.

On April 5th 2008 in Mittagong sponsored by the Royal Society of NSW, I attended a debate between Graeme Pearman, former head of the CSIRO Atmospheric Division an advisor to Al Gore and Ross Garnaut and the Director of the Danish National Space Centre, Eigil Friis-Christensen.

Mr Friis-Christensen presentation was about science, Dr Pearman's said the hypothesised Anthropogenic Global Warming science was a bit hard to follow but it had been modelled in a Million + lines of Fortran code. Dr Pearman did not discuss the hypothesised mechanism how CO2 a minor Green House Gas, Water being the major Green House gas could drive the Earths climate.

regards,

Paul Mathews

Setting a strong target with a well-designed scheme will ensure Australia does its fair share to avoid dangerous climate change, and it will also help refocus our economy to take advantage of new growth industries in renewable energy.

Dear Committee members,

I believe the proposed Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme is not environmentally effective . In particular I am concerned that the weak 5-15% greenhouse reduction target proposed by the Rudd Government are not adequate to avoid dangerous climate change.

We should instead commit to reducing Australia's emissions by at least 50% by 2020 (on 1990 levels).

A steady stream of new scientific findings is showing that climate change is happening much more quickly than previously thought. The Arctic summer sea ice is now expected to melt entirely within the next five years.

Australia's weak target is undermining efforts to form crucial international agreement and must be improved before December's important UN Conference on Climate Change in Copenhagen.

The Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS) currently proposed by the Government is a badly designed scheme that will be do more harm than good. The scheme design over-compensates polluters at the expense of the community and environment.

Setting a strong target with a well-designed scheme will ensure Australia does its fair share to avoid dangerous climate change, and it will also help refocus our economy to take advantage of new growth industries in renewable energy.

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.

Overall the current design of the scheme is dangerously inadequate and unable to avoid dangerous climate change.

I hope the committee will consider these concerns seriously and advocate stronger climate action for Australia.

We need serious greenhouse pollution reductions, at least 50 % reductions on 1990 levels within the next 10 years.

The alternative is, frankly, the end of the planet in its liveable state.

Dear reader

I write to you with a sense of the utmost seriousness of this issue to the leaders of our time.

The targets that the Rudd government has announced for addressing climate change are entirely inadequate and Australia needs to make much more ambitious targets - given the 12 years of inaction, backsliding and denial that we have inherited from the Howard Liberals.

There is unequivocal new evidence that scientists have been providing that serious leadership is required by the polluting first world countries, especially Australia given our retrograde recent record. With Australia experiencing the most intense early signs of climate change risk, we are renegeing on costs that are manageable now (taking the opportunities for structural change that the Global Financial Crisis offers as perverse opportunity).

The current CPRS does not reward the small differences that are required by individual households, but instead makes them redundant in the face of the concession to polluting industry that ARE ALSO needing to create serious strategies for continued polluing practices. An inadequate and wrong message is being sent to industry. By all means: start with manageable targets, but RATCHET THEM UP within a 5, 10 and 15 year plan process that sends a clear signal to business.

Opportunities for painful restructuring of the Australian business economy now will place us in an advantageous position in the necessarily low carbon economy future. The US state of California is currently a world leader in change management relative to climate change: and will reap a continued reward in terms of being innovation exporters in a low carbon industrial future. More rewards for innovation, less concessions for big polluting employers now.

I am currently disappointed in the current direction on the Rudd government's commitments on climate change, and want to see a more substantive commitment to the changes that are absolutely required. Australia cannot afford the crises that lay in wait for us if rainfall continues to shift to boom bust cycles of drought and flood, as well as the issues that present our landscape in the dry and superheated future of serious climate change.

Yours Sincerely

Felena Alach

The reduction targets are unbelievably low and totally inadequate. We need much higher targets. Energy efficiency measures alone could help Australia reduce our energy load, as would demand management options for businesses and power use.

I am appalled that the big polluters are being compensated as outlined in the CPRS. We need to find other solutions, and doing this is not the one.

Climate Change policy - voting Australians have been deceived by the Labor Party

The recent headline in the Australian "Rudd Backflip On Carbon Plan" reflects poorly on the Labor Party and their willingness, like the opposition, to succumb to the temptation of policy making aimed at retaining power when confronted with a looming election rather than to act in the long term best interest of Australians. Rudd's decision to defer and go soft on measures aimed at curbing Global Warming citing tough economic conditions and the world recession as the reason for this backflip is a bitter disappointment and illustrates the Labor Party's lack of commitment, like the previous Coalition Government, in fighting climate change. In reality, the government should be stepping up their efforts to implement sustainable development practices based on renewable green energy sources as global warming has the very real potential to make the current economic crisis look like a Sunday school picnic. The sad point here is that Rudd and the Labor Government are doing exactly what the coalition parties have done and will do again in the future in order to win power - implement short term bad policy by kowtowing to major industry and business groups by propping up jobs and industries based on unsustainable technology, in particular the coal industry and using some political cunning to confuse the Australian electorate by selectively obtaining Australian Conservation Foundation approval by promising high future emission reductions on the never never.

Given the ramifications of global warming to all Australians one would expect bipartisan support from the major parties on this issue. Not so and the Coalition, like the Labor Party, will do anything to win power at the next election hence the unwillingness of the Labor Party to do what it was elected to do. The "retain power at all cost" mindset, shared by both major political parties truly raises the question as to their relevance in today's role in the global landscape and their ability to govern effectively in the future. Right now, the world needs leaders who have the grit to act and who have the courage of their convictions and who are prepared to bite the bullet and implement policy to guide us towards a sustainable existence. As climate change is a global issue, we need leaders and nations to lead by example. Not an easy task but necessary in the survival stakes.

When Australian's voted at the last Federal Election, the majority of Australians, myself included, thought that we had, at last, a leader and political party who would embrace the climate change challenge. All looked promising with Rudd's announcement of Labor's commitment to ratify the Kyoto Protocol, the ground breaking 2020 summit and implied initiatives and Rudd's apparent energy and eagerness to embrace his role as Prime Minister and leader of the Labor Party. In hindsight, it is now apparent that we have an articulate, academic leader who can talk the talk but who can't walk the walk, who, just like the Coalition Party, is more interested in winning the next election rather than doing what is expected and for what the electorate voted.

A glimmer of hope though for all Australians and our future generations is that neither the incumbent government (Coalition clone) nor the Coalition Parties (Labor clone) has the majority in the senate. With the balance of power in the Senate being controlled by the Greens and Independents, there is still hope that common sense may prevail and some real and meaningful legislation emerges without being compromised by industry groups with vested interests, helping us to pave the way towards a sustainable future.

Another glimmer of hope is the article reported in the Weekend Australian of Dame Elisabeth Murdoch writing to Michelle Obama inviting her to join an environmental "call to arms" by a group called Influential Women for Climate Change Action. Dame Elisabeth's comment within the article about humanity being unable to live beyond the planet's means and her concerns for present and future generations reflects her courage and wisdom, something that the major political parties have been unable to embrace.

Surprisingly I find most Australians do not understand the ramifications of Global Warming. To inform the Australian public of the importance of acting on global warming, I urge the government to implement a National education campaign so that we all fully understand the gravity of the situation, warts and all. I also urge the government to prepare a plan of action so that this nation can plan its approach for the future. In relation to fears of the opposition, big business and unions about the economic impact of implementing measures to fight global warming, particularly in the current economic climate, we need to realise that there is no use supporting jobs and industries that are not sustainable. And most of all we need an honest Government that is prepared to put their own jobs on the line in their fight against Global Warming.

David Kernke

I voted for ALP due to the lack of attention the Howard Gov. paid to the escalating problem with world physics during their terms (even since the 1970's sciences' spoke clearly of warnings).

The Global Financial Crisis is nothing compared to what we face from the natural forces that are not our enemy - we are our own & the natural world's enemy. Natural physical forces only respond to our activities and it doesn't give a hoot about \$\$\$\$. We need to engage with the physics of the world and pay our cost in "an act of humility and absolute respect". This needs to be the "stimulus spending" required to gain the results for those generations coming up. I will be voting GREEN from now on as you have betrayed my expectation that your Party had a realistic grounded vision for Australia to be a world leader of Nature's Rights and Human Rights - one is nothing without the other. Mr Rudd you had the potential to lead us into a different paradigm, however, you have short changed us all (this analogy of \$\$ seems to appeal to your values - unfortunately).

I Call on the Government to:

- * As a matter of urgency, change Australia's 2020 emissions reduction target of 5-15% to at least 40-50% by 2020.

- * Keep Australia's 2020 emissions reduction targets out of the CPRS legislation until after the Copenhagen climate deal has been finalised.

- * Ensure that individual, community, and all government emissions reduction efforts contribute to additional emissions abatement. Such actions should lower emissions, not lower carbon prices.

- * Legislate a ban on all new coal-fired power stations in Australia and a moratorium on all new coal exploration and mining.

- * Plan to phase out existing coal-fired power plants over the next ten years. Change the requirements for assistance to coal-fired generators under the CPRS to be conditional upon the 10-year phase-out plan.

- * Suspend all subsidies, tax incentives and financial support to the fossil fuel industry, including compensation measures proposed.

- * Redirect the \$500 million Clean Coal Fund into promoting and advancing renewable energy technology, growth and infrastructure.

- * Establish third party rights under the CPRS Act, to ensure that the CPRS remains transparent and accountable.

- * Direct all money raised through the CPRS into lower emissions technologies including renewable energy.

Clare Wagemans

I would like to see a commitment by the government to reduce Australia's greenhouse gas pollution by 50% by 2020. The current scheme proposed by the government is badly designed and will do more harm than good by over compensating polluters at the expense of the community and environment.

I would like to see our government take advantage of new growth industries in renewable energy.

Every decision is vital. Make your voice count for the future. There is only one future. Help make it a livable one.

Amanda Cowell

The Emissions Trading Scheme is a very indirect way to achieve what needs to be a wholesale remaking of Australia's energy system. Putting an impost on old technology may help at the margins, but it will not achieve the huge increase in investment in renewables (and initially in renewables research & technological advancement) that is required. As has been the case over recent history (20th Century) private investment generally follows public investment in new research and resultant technologies. The private sector won't put at risk the billions of dollars required to research and develop new technologies - but Governments can, and must.

Putting all our eggs in the ETS basket is foolhardy - more so given how weak and paltry the targets are. The Federal Government needs to dramatically increase the ETS targets, but more importantly, put resources where they will be effective in driving down emissions: into development of renewable energy sources.

The Secretary
Senate Select Committee on Climate Policy
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA
ACT 2600

Dear Senators,

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

As you hear from experts from around the country I urge you to listen to Australia's best climate scientists and think of the future we are leaving for our kids.

If the rest of the world followed the Rudd Government's weak targets to cut greenhouse pollution by just 5-15% by 2020 we would face catastrophic climate change – with more deadly bushfires¹, costly floods and cyclones.

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.

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, EMILY JENKINS

¹A joint CSIRO/Bureau of Meteorology study of the impact of climate change in bushfires found parts of Victoria faced up to 65% more days of extreme fire risk by 2020 and 230% more by mid-century.

²According to CSIRO economic modeling, 2.7 million new jobs will be created in Australia by 2025 if we set course to become carbon neutral by 2050.

The forests are the lungs of the earth
They absorb carbon dioxide and emit
oxygen – their destruction must
be stopped.