

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee
Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100, Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Submission to the Senate Climate and Security Inquiry

With regard to the implications of climate change for Australia's national security with particular reference to:

(e) the role of climate mitigation policies in reducing national security risks

We all have an interest in being secure.

Traditionally, our security has been found in the ready availability of—amongst other “resources”—enough water, enough food, shelter, employment, and social cohesion.

And traditionally, responsible leadership has prioritised maintaining access to these resources.

But as our numbers grew these resources were contested, and our security was sometimes maintained at the expense of that of others.

While enough of these resources remained for us this was seen as ok.

However, we are now at a time when the effects of global warming from man-released greenhouse gas emissions — detailed in other submissions to the Inquiry — mean that enough of these resources can no longer be guaranteed for even us. The Committee, with respect, needs to understand that climate change now threatens the security of everyone, whether those comfortable for the moment, or those already struggling.

By not pulling its punches, by describing the full breadth of the security threats, conflict and instability that warming creates, the committee can provide responsible leadership in making clear to the Australian Parliament and public that global warming is the biggest threat to human security that we face.

As such, I would ask the Inquiry Committee to recommend that the Australian Parliament urgently prepare an emergency harm minimisation/security maximising strategy that includes a restructuring of national priorities in order to secure enough water, enough food, shelter, employment, and social cohesion into the future. Attaining zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, drawing down the existing warming gases that have already made the world too hot, and providing increased aid to mitigate climate impacts in neighbouring nations, would be three new priorities.

Otherwise we're cooked.

Sincerely,

Mark Carter

