

13/11/20

To the House Standing Committee on the Environment and Energy,

Included in this document is my submission outlining why Australia needs a Climate Change Act enacted as soon as possible.

Overwhelming consensus in the scientific community (Cook et al., 2013) demonstrates that the observed changes in temperature in the global and regional climate throughout the last century is almost entirely due to human influence on the climate system and not due to natural causes.

The most recent report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change confirmed the atmosphere and oceans are increasingly warming at 0.2 degrees Celsius each decade. We are seeing the effects of this through the decreases in Arctic summer sea ice, rising sea levels, extreme drought, and wildfires. The human influence causing this is due to the release of greenhouse gases primarily through fossil fuel burning, cement production, deforestation and agriculture (Wuebbles et al., 2017).

Minimising the impacts of these effects through implementation of policy and practical mechanisms focused on climate adaption. The recent Global Commission on Adaption highlighted that investing in climate adaption makes sense from an economic, social and ethical perspective.

As such, I would request that this bill be enacted by Parliament and address specifically:

1. Commit to a net zero emissions target by 2050
2. Complete risk assessments and adaption plans for varying sectors of the country
3. A technology readiness assessment
4. Create an independent advisory commission on climate adaption and mitigation.

Thank you,



- Cook, J., Nuccitelli, D., Green, S. A., Richardson, M., Winkler, B., Painting, R., . . . Skuce, A. (2013). Quantifying the consensus on anthropogenic global warming in the scientific literature. *Environmental Research Letters*, 8(2), 024024. doi:10.1088/1748-9326/8/2/024024
- Wuebbles, D. J., Fahey, D. W., Hibbard, K. A., Arnold, J. R., DeAngelo, B., Doherty, S., . . . Hall, T. (2017). Climate Science Special Report: Fourth National Climate Assessment (NCA4), Volume I.