

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you wishing to add my submission to the Environment and Energy committee's inquiry into the Climate Change Bill 2020.

Like most Australian's I believe climate change is an issue that poses significant risks to the world; risks that are clearly becoming more event and are costing us in many ways. I grew up on a farm just outside of Wangaratta, Victoria, and only 40km from the 2019/20 fires in Victoria's high country. Happily, my parents' farm was not under direct threat, though family and school friends were involved directly or indirectly in fighting those fires. These fires have burnt places I remember fondly from childhood. Many years now are hotter than the last. In 35 of 37 years of my life yearly national temperatures have been above the long-term average. I do not want this trend to continue and further threaten the people, places and country I love. We must work towards net zero by 2050 and we must make strong steps towards this goal over the next ten years. The Climate Change bill allows for a strong, transparent and efficient framework to address the issues needed to adapt to and mitigate climate change.

At best, I would describe that at its current rate Australia is making no change in reducing its carbon emissions. To achieve our committed climate goals will require a stronger response than can be achieved by current policy. It is widely recognized that the best and most efficient plans involve a process of clear target setting and taking actions based on the best science, regularly measure and evaluate progress and reset targets and re-evaluate actions where needed. This is a proven process used to address many areas of life, for example improving business practices and productivity, and will work to address climate change. The Climate Change bill 2020 provides a framework to apply this process, it contains:

- Commitment to objectives and mid to long-term targets to reach net zero by 2050.
- Clear guiding principles and risk assessment for all sections of society to allow for the development of the best action plans.
- Allows for regular 5-year reporting and re-evaluation to achieve the best progress.
- Reporting and recommendations undertaken by an independent commission.

Importantly, the bill does not mandate how to achieve net zero by 2050, only that we must. Recommendation of one action or another can be made by the independent commission, but the choice of how to act rests with the government of the day. This is important as it allows for the agreement of where we need to reach, but open and free debate on how to get there, which will build the strongest unity and resolve and greatest consistency.

However difficult the challenges may be in mitigating climate change, I remain optimistic that we can take the greater action required and improve the lives of all Australians in the process. I know we can achieve net zero by 2050, all that we need is the policy commitment and direction to harness the ingenuity and enterprise of the Australian people. This bill provides this commitment and allows us to set our direction based on the best science to reach net zero by 2050. I encourage the committee to support this bill and its goals.

Best regards,

Darryl Johnson