

To those reviewing the Climate Change Bill,

The facts on climate change are clear and do not need to be argued, the scientific consensus has been clear for decades and anyone unconvinced by that is unlikely to be moved by this submission. What I believe this Bill represents, what hope I have for this Bill, in how it will create accountability and structure in how we respond to climate change.

Poll after poll has shown that the Australian public want, and recognise the urgent need, for action on climate change. The issue, I believe, is that there is no clear plan from the government to what will be done about it. We have no body responsible for this, we have no plans for how to transition industries away from fossil fuels and so no answers for those employed in those industries.

It feels to me like we are trapped, between knowing that we need to make changes, and also the current knowledge that there is no political plan for how to make those changes in a meaningful way.

I want to be very clear, I do not care about any of your political futures. I do not care if every single one of you who votes for this Bill gets thrown out of parliament by your colleagues. Your political careers are not worth the lives of the Australian public. Change needs urgently to be made, with clear steps to keep government and industry accountable, which is why we need to have 5 year reviews. We need to have a set target, and we need the steps on how to get there.

For too long this has been held up by the petty political infighting of our major political parties and I am sick of it. I think the Australian people are sick of it. I do not want to hear about Joel Fitzgibbon or Craig Kelly or any of you, I just want you to do something. DO something to protect us all from the impacts of climate change which are about to ravage our lives.

I think about the babies born premature whose mothers choked through the ash cloud from the bushfires, I think about the people I still see around my area living in caravans and tents because their houses burned, I think about a future where most of our native animals are dead, our oceans are empty of fish and our sky is on fire. The politicians of Australia have been treating these fears like a joke. I go to bed at night and worry about how I could have children, how I could bring them into a world that will choke, drown and burn them, and I hear no action from politicians. I recycle, I try and shop plastic free and feed all food scraps to worms and fret over every single purchase, and I see no action from politicians. I see news story after news story about koalas going extinct, about billions of animals dead and I cry and I give money and I see mealy mouthed comments and no action from politicians.

This Bill represents our roadmap through this crisis. It represents political leadership. It represents a plan for how to transition employees in fossil fuel industries and provide for them, and for us to drastically change our energy and infrastructure. I urge the LNP and ALP to allow a conscience vote on this Bill, not be beholden to lunatics who care more about their immediate political future than the lives and future of everyone living in this country and those yet to be born.

I ask you, as someone who has no power to make changes if politicians continue to ignore us, to please vote for this Bill, to allow a conscience vote and to show courage and vision for the future of Australia,

Maddison Kennedy