

The Secretary  
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties  
Parliament House, CANBERRA ACT 2600  
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Dear Treaties Committee

## **RATIFY THE KYOTO PROTOCOL**

Please advise the Australian Government to ratify the Kyoto Protocol as a minimal first position. We request that the Australian Government go further and seek to reduce greenhouse emission by at least the 7 to 8 percent agreed by European Countries and USA. We are concerned that Australians have the highest per person greenhouse emissions and should seriously be trying to reduce these.

We are concerned at the risks of

- Global warming damaging the earths ecosystems, human health and economies through altering agriculture and forest viability, increasing bush fires, drought and other disasters, damaging beaches, landscapes, tourist potential and human health
- Australia missing or delaying opportunities for sustainable development and economic development in new, internationally significant industries created by managing greenhouse emissions
- Australia promoting an international image of poor planning and development, dirty production, irresponsibility and short term selfishness if we remain the highest per person emitters and do not ratify the Kyoto Protocol
- Delaying greenhouse responses, creating an even greater challenge to catch up in future.

We accept the International Panel for Climate Change and CSIRO warnings about global warming and request that the Australian Government take early precautionary measures. Given the seriousness of the risk we ask for a committed government response to reducing greenhouse emissions.

We urge the government to ratify the Kyoto Protocol and make a genuine commitment to managing greenhouse emissions and promoting environmentally sustainable development in Australia.

Catherine and Geoffrey McNaughton