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From: Howard Flinders [SMTP:howard_flinders@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, July 16, 2000 12:09 AM
To: jsct@aph.gov.au
Subject: Kyoto Protocol

Australia has a significant role to play internationally, far beyond the restrictive confines of simply considering its own national interest.

Failure to ratify such an important international treaty as the Kyoto Protocol will reflect badly on Australia. The issue of climate change is long term and wide-reaching, with poor decisions made now likely to impact on other nations and future generations.

The importance of acting appropriately now is vitally important - as a relatively rich, powerful nation Australia should be aligning itself with other nations leading on this issue, rather than potentially sabotaging efforts to effect long term security for all global citizens.

Even if Australia were solely pursuing self interest (rather than engaging as an 'international citizen'), with potential coral reef bleaching of the Great Barrier Reef surely it would be wise to adopt a precautionary principle in respect of the issue of emissions.

Opportunities to show leadership, show initiative, and 'generally do the right thing', particularly on truly important issues, come rarely, and should be grasped.

Yours faithfully,
Howard Flinders