

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

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The Women's Planning Network  
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24.8.2000

Dear Treaties Committee

## **RATIFY THE KYOTO PROTOCOL ON GREENHOUSE MANAGEMENT**

The Women's Planning Network requests that the Australian Government ratify the Kyoto Protocol. We are a network of people with a professional and community interest in land use planning, development and the environment.

We are concerned at the risks of global warming and not ratifying the Kyoto Protocol in;

- Global warming undermining local economies, communities and environments 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 maintain our unfortunate position as the nation creating the most greenhouse emissions per person
- 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.

The Australian Government should at least ratify the Kyoto Protocol as a minimal first position. We request that the Australian Government go further and seek to reduce greenhouse emission by the 7 to 8 percent agreed by European Countries and USA.

Urban Planning has an important role to play in managing greenhouse emissions and promoting sustainable development, whilst also improving liveability. We encourage the Australian Government to promote

- Urban planning programs which advance sustainability
- Energy efficient buildings through amending the Building Code of Australia to require new buildings and extensions to achieve a minimum 4 star energy rating
- Leading edge building and energy technologies to improve our competitive position and image, rather than waiting to follow Europe
- Less car dependent forms of development including
  - changing the road funding program to a transport program giving a greater priority to walking, bikes and public transport
  - removing the inequity of GST on public transport fares
  - State Government sustainable transport strategies
- Control of land clearing and encouragement of replanting
- Consideration of carbon trading, credits and taxes to promote best practice
- Increasing the minimum requirement for energy generated from environmentally sustainable sources from 2 to 7.4 % - the average agreed by other countries

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 Mc Naughton  
Women's Planning Network