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Secretary of the Committee
Inquiry into the Kyoto Protocol
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Dear Sir/Madam

I consider the potential effects of climate change are one of the most critical issues facing humanity. As I understand it, the science is now showing that climate change from the enhanced greenhouse gas effect is now no longer in dispute, with data from the last two years clearly showing climate change derivations beyond what would normally be expected.

I wish to express my view that Australia should try and meet the Greenhouse Gas reduction targets that apply to most other countries - We should exceed our target significantly. It is especially important to have Australia show leadership in greenhouse gas reductions as we are amongst highest per capita emitters in world

Many greenhouse gas reduction measures result in a win-win for both the environment and the economy and should be pursued with vigour. Also, we have generally reached the stage with most pollutants that industry is being managed to the best practicable standards and now to achieve effective change it is community that needs to consider it's practices which cumulatively have significant impacts. I consider local government is best placed to effect community change, and should be supported in its endeavours. I understand that the City of Newcastle is a leader in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

I also question what is the alternative to a non-international agreement? What pressure can be exerted on other countries to conform if not by an international treaty? The protocol provides the best option for the moment to get international consensus moving into action.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Ron Van Delft
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