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**From:** wangsta@gihs.sa.edu.au [SMTP:wangsta@gihs.sa.edu.au]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 25, 2000 9:26 PM  
**To:** jsct@aph.gov.au  
**Subject:** Kyoto Protocol Comments

## KYOTO PROTOCOL COMMENTS

To the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties,

I do not agree with the government's stance in the issue to do with Australia being allowed to actually increase its greenhouse gas emissions. In fact, Australia has already 'blown out' to 16.9 per cent, and already has the highest per capita greenhouse gas pollution levels in the world, claims John Connor, of the Australian Conservation Foundation campaign director, in the Advertiser 24th August.

Furthermore, the fact that the government has said that Australia is in the throes of an economic revival is highly dramatized. True, Australia is having a tiny bit of economic upgrade, but it is not nearly enough that it can be described as being 'in the throes of an economic revival'. The amount of economic upgrade is simply not big enough to allow exceptions to be made. In fact, at the moment, Australia's current account is at a record deficient level. This surely, is not a sign of great economic upgrade, let alone economic revival. Even so, if Australia really was in the throes of economic revival, this fact should be put aside in the face of the seriousness of the greenhouse effect.

"Every little bit helps." That is something that has been said time and time again, by thousands of charities worldwide. And that is true. Every little bit does help. If lots of people / groups strive to just give or help by just a little bit, the end goal will be reached. If every country started claiming that it too was 'in the throes of economic revival', and therefore should be allowed to increase their greenhouse gas emissions, the Kyoto Protocol would probably fail in its goals. And let us not forget the fact that the United Nations' Framework Convention [a convention with the same main goal as the Kyoto Protocol] has already failed in its goals. In order to protect the future of our world, we need to go to sometimes extreme lengths because of the harm already done, and in this case, reduce the amount of greenhouse gas emissions by as much as possible, 'via' the Kyoto Protocol.

Therefore, I think that Australia, and all the other countries that were allowed to increase their greenhouse gas emissions should stop taking advantage of that exception immediately. I also believe that during the next Protocol, the privileges made towards Australia and the other two countries [for approval to increase the amount of greenhouse gas emissions] should be revoked straightaway.

I may only be a mere Year 8 student, but I do care about the environment and the world we live in.

Stacie Wang  
E-mail: wangsta@gihs.sa.edu.au

School: Glenunga International High School  
Address: L'Estrange Street, Glenunga, South Australia 5064, Australia.