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From: Melinda Denham [SMTP:meldenham@start.com.au]
Sent: Friday, August 11, 2000 1:00 AM
To: jsct@aph.gov.au
Subject: Submission: Kyoto Protocol

I am writing in regards to the Inquiry about whether Australia should ratify the Kyoto Protocol.

I believe Australia should ratify the Kyoto Protocol, for a number of reasons:

* There are economic, environmental and human costs if we do not immediately reduce the amount of CO₂ going into the atmosphere. Although the scientific evidence so far is not completely definitive, there seems to be fairly compelling evidence that CO₂ emissions are causing climate change which has the potential to effect human health and the economy. It is only prudent to ratify the treaty, to enable the effects of CO₂ emissions to date to be studied in more detail.

* There are many economic opportunities in changing Australia's economy into a greenhouse friendly one.

A Worldwatch article highlights the trend towards micropower sources, which is in part driven by the information economy's need for reliable power sources.

There are opportunities for Australia to lead the world in developing and commercialising new energy sources, such as the solar and fuel cells developed at the University of New South Wales. Demand for these new technologies would be stimulated by government support for reducing greenhouse emissions.

Finally, there is a significant risk that Australia will fall behind world-best practice in this area, which could seriously affect our profile internationally and our tourism industry.

Sincerely,