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**From:** Doig Jonathan [SMTP:doigj@epa.nsw.gov.au]  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 16, 2000 7:15 PM  
**To:** 'jsct@aph.gov.au'  
**Subject:** Personal submission on Inquiry into the Kyoto Protocol

Committee Secretary  
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties  
Department of House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600  
AUSTRALIA

Dear Sir/Madam

Personal submission on Inquiry into the Kyoto Protocol  
<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jsct/kyoto/kyoto.htm>

Dear me. This has got to be the low point in the history of the JSCT.

First Senator Hill shamed Australia by arguing for increased, rather than decreased, greenhouse gas emissions for Australia. Clive Hamilton and Four Corners have shown how ABARE was captured by the fossil-fuel giants and produced shonky statistics to support their case.

Now I note with absolute disgust that the government is holding a parliamentary inquiry into whether Australia should even bother to ratify the Kyoto Protocol and meet these specially relaxed limits. Talk about fiddling while Rome burns! This inquiry is a waste of precious time and money, and shows the extent to which this government is simply a front for large corporate interests, in this case mining and energy.

Take a look at the bias in your terms of reference. Raising the question of "the veracity of conflicting current scientific theories on global warming" is reminiscent of the "debate" over the link between smoking and lung cancer. As then, the only "experts" contesting the veracity of global warming are the mercenaries for the fossil-fuel lobby. The terms of reference then sneer at carbon taxes and incentive-based approaches as "punitive". What outcome, pray tell, are your political masters looking for from this inquiry?

For God's sake, just GET ON WITH IT. Australia should not simply ratify the Kyoto Protocol: we should reduce our greenhouse emissions at least to 20% below 1990 levels. Australians should be leaders in the new, ecologically sustainable, global information economy and exporting our renewable energy technologies to the world. Instead, the current government has its stubborn, stupid, reactionary heads stuck firmly - fossilized you might say - in the 1950s, and is desperately hoping that global warming will somehow go away. This is a tragedy for us, for future generations and for the many plants and animals which will be driven to extinction by global warming and sea level rise.

For the record, I would support efforts to reduce our greenhouse emissions by banning land clearing, using economic instruments such as a carbon tax, investment in the rapid rebuilding of our public transport infrastructure, funding of renewable energy and energy conservation programs. Greenhouse gases should of course be a "trigger" under the EPBC Act. If you need more

ideas, take a look at Norway's recently announced policies aimed at achieving sustainability within about a decade.

By the way, I did consider writing a less emotional submission, but honestly, the time for restraint is long passed. Please, get on with it.

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