

Dear Committee members,

I believe the proposed Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme is not environmentally effective . In particular I am concerned that the weak 5-15% greenhouse reduction target proposed by the Rudd Government are not adequate to avoid dangerous climate change.

We should instead commit to reducing Australia's emissions by at least 50% by 2020 (on 1990 levels).

A steady stream of new scientific findings is showing that climate change is happening much more quickly than previously thought. The Arctic summer sea ice is now expected to melt entirely within the next five years.

Australia's weak target is undermining efforts to form crucial international agreement and must be improved before December's important UN Conference on Climate Change in Copenhagen.

The Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS) currently proposed by the Government is a badly designed scheme that will do more harm than good. The scheme design over-compensates polluters at the expense of the community and environment.

Setting a strong target with a well-designed scheme will ensure Australia does its fair share to avoid dangerous climate change, and it will also help refocus our economy to take advantage of new growth industries in renewable energy.

Because the CPRS imposes a floor beyond which emissions cannot fall, the action individuals and small businesses take to reduce energy will not reduce Australia's total greenhouse emissions further than the Government's weak target of 5-15%. In fact their action will only make room for industry to increase their emissions under that cap.

Overall the current design of the scheme is dangerously inadequate and unable to avoid dangerous climate change.

I hope the committee will consider these concerns seriously and advocate stronger climate action for Australia.