

To Senators on the Senate Select Committee on Climate Policy,

We Need Effective Action on Climate Change!

The Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS) proposed by the Government must be changed. It has an unacceptably weak target, and it over-compensates polluters. This is a climate emergency and we really need a "war effort". A TRANSPARENT AND SIMPLE CARBON TAX SHOULD BE CONSIDERED.

The CPRS target is to reduce Australia's carbon emissions to 5% below 2000 levels by 2020. That effort, if followed by the rest of the world, will result in disaster. The goal should be at least 40% reduction by 2020, PREFERABLY 50%.

The CPRS as it stands is a pay-the-polluter scheme, not a polluter-pays scheme.

The efforts of everyone from householders to State Governments to reduce emissions will be helpful only in reducing the price pressure on polluters. This must be fixed.

Other actions must also be taken including a high mandatory renewable energy target, a renewable energy feed-in tariff, high energy efficiency standards for homes and commercial buildings, high fuel efficiency standards and investment in trains, buses and trams not roads. Ending the logging of Australia's native forests would reduce Australia's emissions by substantially more than 5%.

SCIENCE

Please look at the science of this situation. Read what scientists including Prof Will Steffen and Dr Ian McPhail are reporting. Don't believe the coal lobby, carbon capture is not a solution to burning coal. We have to drastically reduce the generation of coal power. Yesterday, at a Sustainable Cities and Transport Forum, Dr Damon Honnery said carbon sequestration "is laughable".

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