

To Senators on the Senate Select Committee on Climate Policy,

I want an emissions trading scheme that makes polluters pay instead of paying them to keep polluting. I want a scheme that creates new green jobs and stimulates investment in clean industries, a scheme that will see Australia play its fair role in preventing climate catastrophe. I represent a good proportion of the Australian public, the general working Mum's and Dad's who are trying very hard to reduce their footprint on the earth. And what will this effort bring? More permits for more big business polluters to keep on polluting. How does this make me feel? Why bother at my end?

The Government's plan will undermine existing policies to move Australia to renewable energy, energy efficiency and clean transport. It will pay polluters billions of dollars in compensation and use the voluntary emissions reductions that I and others like me make to free up even more permits for polluters. Worst of all, it will lock Australia into a weak 5% emissions reduction target and close off the option of achieving the much deeper cuts in greenhouse emissions we need to prevent climate catastrophe

As it stands, the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS) proposed by the Government is a badly designed scheme. Climate Change Minister Penny Wong has described the CPRS as 'better than nothing', but she is wrong. It is worse than useless. Its key flaws include an unacceptably weak target, and a design which over-compensates polluters at the expense of the community and environment.

We must aim as an absolute minimum to reduce Australia's carbon emissions to 40% below 2000 levels by 2020.

Please look at the science of this situation, not the politics. Although you could remind the Rudd government that it was their apparently strong stance on climate change that went a long way toward their election success and their eagerness for Australian to sign the Kyoto protocol went a long way toward their popularity. We thought that this was one government that would not backflip on us but this is precisely what has happened!

Australia needs a strong, ambitious and fair emissions trading scheme, not a plan that protects polluters and stands in the way of the change we need.

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