

To Senators on the Senate Select Committee on Climate Policy,

The Government's approach to climate change abatement is complex, badly flawed in that it does not effectively address the core issues, and is in debt to legacy industries and vested interest. The proposal that has been presented is extremely disappointing, especially after the promises and rhetoric of the Labor election campaign. It appears that politics, rather than climate change has been its driving force. In normal circumstances politics can produce acceptable compromise between interests represented, however, these are not normal circumstances - we are facing dangerous and as yet imperfectly understood forces that do not care about our politics.

The earth has, of course, been well able in its history to adapt to the often catastrophic changes inflicted upon it. Unfortunately many of the species living in the fragile biosphere on its surface have not, and have become extinct. We may also - we do not know if we will, the earth 'does not care' if we do or not - at the very least we are likely to face problems far exceeding those of present trade and economics. It is a huge risk to future generations to be treating this situation as a political exercise, both nationally and internationally.

Any scheme adopted should be effective, fair, quickly mobilise the sustainability of our economy, be capable of implementation without disadvantaging Australia (or any other country implementing it, for that matter) internationally and transcend political point scoring.

A proposal that addresses these requirements has already been developed in detail, is ready to go, and I believe it has been or is proposed for implementation by several countries. It is 'cap and share', (<http://www.capandshare.org/>) and the following quote from the website may encourage you to investigate the proposal further, I hope so.

"Cap & Share is a way of capping carbon, an alternative to 'carbon rations' or carbon taxes. Cap & Share is fair, simple, practical, effective, cheap, easy and empowering. It is not a tax - it puts us in charge, and it protects the poor. Don't let anyone tell you "it's not that simple". It is. We need to act quickly and decisively, and Cap & Share stands ready as an example of how to do it."

I urge you to reject the Government's present proposal.

Thank you

Dave Kermode