

To Senators on the Senate Select Committee on Climate Policy,

As a responsible member of the world community, Australia should be setting a good example on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Emissions trading is one important tool that the government can use to reduce Australia's emissions. We need to set strong targets and it is possible to do this by having a well-designed scheme that will dramatically reduce Australia's emissions at the least cost to the economy and make sure Australia does its fair share to tackle climate change.

I am totally disillusioned by the proposed Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS). It is a badly designed scheme that will be worse than useless. It has laughable targets which will not address an important issue such as global warming. Global warming will dramatically change (for the worse) the world in which we live. If Australia loses the Great Barrier Reef (just one possibility) then the loss of tourist income will have a huge impact which will be felt not just in coastal Queensland. Aside from this it would be an absolute travesty and unconscionable behaviour on our part not to preserve our planet for future generations. Industry raises concerns about the effect on Australia's economy of Carbon Trading Scheme's and reductions in emissions and not doubt there will be an impact however there will also be an economic impact if Australia loses some of it's tourists attractions.

One of the major flaws of the CPRS besides it's unacceptably weak targets is the design of it that over-compensates polluters at the expense of the community and environment. Industry needs to clean up it's act, not be compensated for being polluters. Australians are willing to be more environmentally responsible and hold genuine concerns for the world in which we live. It is time that polluting industries research and develop cleaner ways of working. It is outrageous that tax payer's money will be used to compensate polluting industries. It would be much fairer to reward clean industries.

I would much prefer that tax payer's money was paid to renewable/sustainable energy companies to support and promote cleaner energy options.

Australia should also pursue a high renewable energy target. With the amount of sunshine NSW receives it is perplexing that solar power is not heavily subsidised, promoted and indeed made mandatory. After all, West Germany relies heavily on solar power and they cannot possibly get as much sunshine as we do.

The government needs to also create energy efficiency standards for homes and commercial buildings, fuel efficiency standards and investment in trains, buses and trams. Ending the logging of Australia's native forests would reduce Australia's emissions by substantially more than 5%. All these policies should be pursued regardless of the CPRS.

We are stewards of this world, we do not own it, we must preserve our planet for future generations. We are fortunate to live in a beautiful, clean (mostly) environment and our children and our children's' children deserve to be able to live in a beautiful world not one that our generation chose not to save.

I ask that you listen to scientific evidence, the voice of concerned Australian's and experts in this field rather than political short sighted opinions.

You are in a position to help preserve our planet, please don't let me and my family down.

Elizabeth Grace