

To Senators on the Senate Select Committee on Climate Policy,

## EMISSIONS TRADING SCHEME SUBMISSION

I am a 45 year old Shipping Clerk, photographer and sometime doco maker. I'm writing to this committee from the perspective of a person who has a real sense of the zeitgeist.

### What People Think

After years of denial, the Rudd Labor government was elected with a mandate to make a substantial, courageous and real effort to tackle climate change. The proposed emissions trading scheme does nothing except waste public service effort, your time and our money. We see your proposal as a whimpering placation to our worst heavy polluters, the coal and alumina industry.

I don't think you really get how much we ordinary people love our country and therefore how much we are prepared to sacrifice to give our country a decent future regarding this issue.

So many people have done things large and small to reduce energy use, catch water and reduce water use. But there is very little encouragement from the federal government. In just a couple of years so many people have invested in solar panels that the government has panicked and is getting rid of the rebate scheme!

With the election of Barack Obama you have the chance to form a real partnership/alliance to take some very concrete and positive action on climate change.

And ironically with the recession here there is a real chance to turn adversity to advantage and invest in carbon trading, and infrastructure and technology that will help us reduce emissions, skill up thousands of workers in new technologies/industries and help prepare us for a post oil economy.

We've replaced all the light bulbs and shower roses. The time for big changes lead by you, is here.

### What We Can Do

#### 1. Carbon trading.

Carbon trading is just one tool in the kit. But it's a useful one if used properly. Why not invest in our own country with native revegetation projects in the large tracts of farmland that are too drought affected to be farmable any longer? Why not trade carbon in soil sequestration here in Australia? Why not assist our developing Pacific neighbours by having big polluters pay to plant forest instead of logging it?

#### 2. Ask ordinary Australians to invest and help out

We'd LOVE to invest in infrastructure projects that have a green economic future: solar power stations, geothermal energy, revegetation to capture carbon, public transport upgrades. Instead of public-private partnerships what about public-public partnerships?

3. Assist the domestic and commercial construction industry New housing stock, new commercial buildings and retrofitting old housing and commercial buildings to make them all energy efficient. Americans are actually very good at this with domestic housing. Australian housing is atrociously energy inefficient. This has to change and presents a massive opportunity to grow good businesses, skill people up and move toward an economy with a future.

#### 4. Don't leave it to the States.

Nothing good will happen. Look at Victoria.

#### 5. Move people from the old to the new

It would be reprehensive and completely irresponsible to leave workers and their families thinking they have a future in power stations and coal mining. Even the CFMEU acknowledge that change has to happen. The time to move and retrain workers is NOW. The country has a future building solar panels and electric cars, and carbon farming. It does not have a future in digging up our natural resources and sending them to China.

To Sum Up

Big business did not elect you, we did. Big business will not re-elect you. We will.

So stop being apologists for the big polluters. Stand up, lead and ask us to follow. We will, because there are no jobs on a dead planet.

Yours sincerely,  
Kerry Tait