

To Senators on the Senate Select Committee on Climate Policy,

I AM REALLY UNHAPPY WITH THE PROPOSED CARBON POLLUTION REDUCTION SCHEME PROPOSED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

Drastic measures need to be undertaken without delay for the protection of our planets climate, and to prevent us from losing complete intervention opportunity as a result of exponential global warming.

Please don't compromise this opportunity to make a difference with a "better than nothing " proposal. We don't expect this approach from any other professional, academic or service area. It is not good enough for government or climate intervention programs to take this approach either.

The economy relies on the state of the environment. Please focus on the primary importance of that.

Please focus on overall carbon emission reduction of 40% plus, rather than a trading scheme which will "reward" Australias worst polluters with billions of dollars of compensation in cash and free permits to continue polluting. The proposed CPRS will protect the profits of Australia's worst climate offenders at the expense of clean industries!

In addition to setting such a weak 5% target, the CPRS also fails to take into account voluntary emission reductions from the community. 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 by taking account of community action and all the policies already in place when setting the scheme caps, and using the scheme to drive more ambitious efforts.

An emissions trading scheme is just one of the tools the federal government can reduce Australia's greenhouse gas emissions. But there are other tools in its toolbox, such as a mandatory renewable energy target, a renewable energy feed-in tariff, 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.

Please don't give Australian citizens the false sense of security that a 5% reduction in carbon emissions will have on mitigating climate change. In fact we know that there are tipping points in Earth's systems which, if breached, will send our climate spinning out of control with catastrophic consequences for all of us. A 5% reduction will lull the average citizen into thinking it is all being taken care of. This is a gross governmental irresponsibility.

If we are to have a reasonable chance of preventing runaway climate change, we must make every effort to avoid these tipping points. That means high-polluting countries like Australia moving towards carbon neutrality as fast as possible, with cuts of at least 40% by 2020.

Please look at the science of this situation, not the politics. Listen to the experts who offer their advice to you during this inquiry, listen to the people of Australia and make the right decision in your recommendations.

Climate Change Minister Penny Wong has described the CPRS as 'better than nothing', but she is wrong. It is worse than useless.

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

Concerned for the health of the planet,

Tracey Larkin