

The Secretary  
Senate Select Committee on Climate Policy  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA  
ACT 2600

Dear Senators,

Thank you for inviting submissions to the Senate Select Committee on Climate Policy.

As you hear from experts from around the country I urge you to listen to Australia's best climate scientists and think of the future we are leaving for our kids.

If the rest of the world followed the Rudd Government's weak targets to cut greenhouse pollution by just 5-15% by 2020 we would face catastrophic climate change – with more deadly bushfires<sup>1</sup>, costly floods and cyclones.

Australia needs to champion an effective global agreement if we are to avoid devastating effects on our environment and economy. We need to set a strong climate change policy before the crucial Copenhagen climate change conference in December. This is the best – and possibly last – chance the world will have to solve the climate crisis.

Australia needs to lead by example and increase its weak 2020 target to at least 30%, moving to 40% in the context of a global agreement.

I ask that your committee recommend policies that make strong cuts in Australia's carbon pollution, make Australia energy smart and drive investment in renewable energy to make it cheaper than coal power.

Strong action on climate change will create millions of new Green Collar jobs, not destroy them as the big polluters claim.<sup>2</sup> I have also recently been advised by Terry A'Hearn of EPA Victoria that in most cases, businesses who cut their greenhouse emissions find that it is to their economic benefit to do so.

Contrary to popular belief, maintaining a strong economy is not a goal which is in opposition to the promotion of a healthy environment. Without a healthy environment, the economy must also fail, and vice versa. The sustainability of both merely requires a shift in thinking.

In 2007, Australia voted for strong action on climate change. In 2009, I urge you to use your important role to recommend Australia makes a response to the climate crisis that future generations will thank us for.

Yours sincerely,

Lola Jones.

<sup>1</sup>A joint CSIRO/Bureau of Meteorology study of the impact of climate change in bushfires found parts of Victoria faced up to 65% more days of extreme fire risk by 2020 and 230% more by mid-century.

<sup>2</sup>According to CSIRO economic modeling, 2.7 million new jobs will be created in Australia by 2025 if we set course to become carbon neutral by 2050.