

To Senators on the Senate Select Committee on Climate Policy,

A strong and functional emissions trading scheme is essential for Australia's future.

A weak scheme that relies on the false premise that Australia can continue as normal, will ensure that Australia not only adds to the effects of climate change, but lags seriously behind most countries in its response to the crisis and in its future planning.

As it stands, the emissions trading scheme will send all the wrong messages to the major polluters, encouraging them to believe they can buy their way out, placing more of the financial burden on the public.

This is unacceptable and dangerous. As we have seen in many instances recently, climate change is already here, it is happening - it is not something in the future.

Any action we take must be strong, to send the right messages and to ensure that while we may not be able to reverse the effects of climate change, we will at least reduce the future effects of it getting worse.

Australia needs to make changes, without those changes our country will suffer. A target of 5% that encourages polluters to continue as they are, and gives no incentive to reduce emissions, is not a change - it is just preserving the current status quo.

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

Name: J McRae