

Senate Select Committee on Climate Policy

Submission from Katherine McDermott

7th April 2009

On 11 March 2009, the Senate established a Select Committee on Climate Policy to inquire into policies relating to climate change.

I am responding to the proposals which are supposed to address the issue of carbon reduction which in turn will have a positive effect on reducing and stopping global warming.

Emission trading has excellent benefits for private, individual and government sectors if thought out properly and conditions imposed correctly.

Points which need to be addressed:

- Reduction target of 5% will not produce efficient results which will impact on the overall climate change issue.
- The scheme needs to look at the bigger picture and incentives which will drive companies and individuals to reduce carbon emission and increase energy efficiency resulting in reduced cost.
- Permits issued to 'big polluters' need to be closely monitored.
- If the incentive for them was to become energy efficient and reduce emissions, and by doing so 'store' carbon credits for future use they would spend money on doing so as it would be cost effective in the long run.
- Private individuals and households should be able to offset their excess points or permits and sell them back to the government or get tax rebates.
- Companies and 'big polluters' should be able to store their excess points or permits and in effect 'bank' them for future use or alternatively sell them back to the government or use them to receive tax offsets or rebates.
- The government could then monitor effectively the amount of harmful emissions and where the environment has been saved from pollution due to companies and individuals acting to reduce their carbon footprint.
- In doing so the government could more confidently work to reduce emissions more effectively and therefore aim for a higher outcome than the current proposed 5% by 2020.

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