

To Senators on the Senate Select Committee on Climate Policy,  
I do not support the proposed emissions trading scheme. I do not support any emissions trading scheme. I believe it is the wrong approach.

The problem we face is a serious and pressing one which needs immediate, if not urgent action. We need to dramatically cut carbon emissions. Creating a carbon trading market has, as it's primary function, the creation of a trading marketplace where goods ( carbon credits etc ) can be bought and sold for profit. This avoids the primary issue. We must reduce carbon emissions. By allowing carbon trading, we will open the door for a grand industry of creative accounting, future investment and manipulation by the most powerful institutions of commerce be they industries, corporations or states.

The reasons for having a carbon emissions trading scheme are primarily directed at enticing industry and commerce to come on board with emission reduction. If we make it profitable, industry and commerce will take it on board. The glaring flaw here however is the capability of free market players to manipulate and distort conditions, products and product descriptions to enable maximum profit while maintaining minimum responsibility and compliance with social obligations. Australia will be a star performer in this area. We will, as a nation, contribute more and more to carbon emissions by exporting more and more coal to growing overseas markets while not having to carry any responsibility for the consequential emissions. Not in our backyard, not our problem. But it is our problem and it is the world's problem. We are asked to believe that the loss of the coal export industry will result in catastrophic job losses and cripple our economy. This is not true. Coal exports provide 3-4% of GDP. The majority of energy and mining companies are now foreign owned so most of their profits go offshore. The mining industry overall may pay around \$18 billion each year in taxes but it also receives around \$9 billion in citizen (taxpayer) subsidies. On top of this are the massive sums invested by government in infrastructure to allow these poor industries to compete and sell their wares. Mining accounts for around 1.3% of employment, far less than hospitality or information technology. Bunnings employs more people than the entire aluminium industry. The coal industry should be allowed to die a natural death like watchmakers and other industries killed off by new technology. All the losses suffered by the death of the coal industry could be covered many times over by real and massive investment in alternative, renewable, non polluting energy generation.

It beggars belief that a country like Australia with the climate and sunshine for which we are renowned worldwide and which we push so hard in our tourism marketing, is not the outright world leader in solar electricity generation technology. With sustained massive investment in research, development and production we could produce an industry which would employ many times more people and yield vast revenue for our country. Imagine, Australia, the number one supplier of renewable energy and solar technology to the world.

It does take imagination. It takes imagination to break from over a century of coal technology. We must leave the 19th century behind and open our eyes and minds to the fact that we are in the 21st century with a catastrophic problem to solve. No, we do not need to kill off the coal industry tomorrow, but we must not protect and subsidise it. We must make it pay for it's own carbon emissions, whether produced here by our own (foreign owned) generators, or whether produced overseas as a result of burning our coal.

We must have a carbon tax system. A system which directly connects how much emissions you produce to how much money you have to pay.

There must be a direct link with no "deductions" or trading out clauses. This must be a direct link regardless of whether the actual emission are produced here or overseas. This is the only way to ensure that emissions are inevitably and relatively quickly reduced. You pollute, you pay. No trading credits like sub prime loans. No packaging up hideous pollution levels in fancy wrapping paper so they appear attractive to profit hunting investors. No ability for countries like our own to continue to produce the largest per capita emissions on the planet while turning to the rest of the world with a smile to say "but we've reduced our emissions....just have a look at our carbon credits ledger". Most Australians realise that the carbon emissions trading scheme is a slippery beast which no-one will ever understand properly but which will undoubtedly give some people the chance to make huge sums of money from pollution. If the senate committee and subsequently, the government accepts the scheme, the Australian people will accept it too. But it

will leave our people with a hollow feeling. The feeling that comes with the knowledge that we could have done much better. Let's finally stand up as a country and grab an opportunity to lead. An opportunity to significantly contribute to a better world, or indeed, just a world if the worst case scenarios prove to be accurate. An opportunity to open income streams for this country of unimaginable size and longevity in the renewable, non polluting energy industry. Let's actually do our best, rather than just say it all the time while actually just following everyone else's lead. Let's cut a new path down which others will follow (of course, Europe has already started, it's pollution and energy situation verging on the 'dire'). Let's give our people the opportunity to feel really proud to be Australian, to feel proud to be changing for the better.

Let's be real about carbon emissions. Let's not fudge it off in a new free market monopoly game. Let's actually have the courage to face up to it. Let the polluters pay. You pollute, you pay. Let's invest in new technology research and development. Let's shift into a new gear. Let's tackle the problem head on rather than hiding behind the shelter shed and chucking a few yonnies at it during recess. NO EMISSIONS TRADING SCHEME. YOU POLLUTE, YOU PAY. REAL EMISSIONS REDUCTION.

Name: George Butrumlis