

7th April 2009

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

The government's climate policy doesn't make sense to me. On the one hand the government says that climate change is very serious. Kevin Rudd said that we must not go above 450 ppm. Yet on the other hand, the emissions cuts that the government is committing to would not, if applied by the rest of the developed world, keep us below 450ppm (even when taking per capita emissions into account).

So which is it? Does the government believe in its own climate rhetoric or doesn't it?

The equation is very simple: if we don't reduce emissions *enough*, we face global disaster. The science is clear about that.

There's no sense in coming out with excuses: nature doesn't care for our excuses or the economic and political realities we face today. You can't have an economy without a functioning ecosystem, and we commit our own children and grandchildren to catastrophe if we don't get serious about cutting emissions.

There are broadly two possibilities for the future:

- The world (particularly the US) wakes up and a new global green revolution takes place. In this case we in Australia risk being left behind by the economic opportunities if we don't take a lead now.
- Business as usual goes on, and we're all doomed.

In either case, there's no harm in Australia committing to massive cuts (at least 25%), and there would be plenty of benefit.

Yours faithfully,

Yasir Assam