

07/04/2009

To Whom It May Concern,

I would like to express my concern over the proposed CPRS (Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme). In its current form the CPRS not only does not meet international standards, nor do anything to actually help reduce carbon emissions, but rather when all factors are taken into account it will actually allow for an INCREASE in carbon emissions.

It is unacceptable to implement such a scheme and steps must be taken immediately to significantly change the CPRS to make it effective in addressing the need for carbon reduction.

Currently the following points are of greatest concern;

- The unconditional greenhouse target of 5% emission reductions by 2020 is far lower than the 25% to 40% target range flagged at the United Nations Bali Convention on climate change in 2008.
- It encourages the growth of highly polluting Energy Intensive Trade Exposed (EITE) industries' (such as aluminium smelters) by allocating them 25% of permits free of charge, increasing to 45% by 2020. This is in direct conflict with the recommendations in the final Garnaut report.
- Free permits are given to coal power over the first 5 years. This provides windfall profits to polluters and encourages dirty coal power to continue in the short term.
- Permits are property rights instead of temporary licences. This means that polluters who get them will be paid compensation in the future if more stringent emission reductions are introduced.
- There is no limit on overseas offsets, so Australia's emissions could increase and emission permits bought from overseas to "offset" them.
- The cap on the CO2 price of around \$40/tonne for the first 5 years excludes renewable energy in the absence of other incentives.
- The high "cap" is also a "floor" so emission reductions by households will be simply on sold by power stations to other polluters, resulting in no actual emission reductions.

We have a responsibility as an OECD nation and as members of the global community to positively effect carbon emissions and therefore climate change. We have the technology to make a significant difference what we require now is the will.

I urge you to take direct action now to ensure we do ALL WE CAN to address this situation NOW.

Sincerely,

Genevieve Searle