



Simon Corbell MLA

ATTORNEY GENERAL

MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND WATER

MINISTER FOR POLICE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

MINISTER FOR ENERGY

MEMBER FOR MOLONGLO

The Secretary
Senate Select Committee on Climate Policy
climate.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Sir or Madam

I refer to the Chair of the Senate Select Committee on Climate Change Policy, Senator the Hon Richard Colbeck's, letter of 20 March 2009 to Mr Jon Stanhope MLA, Chief Minister of the ACT, inviting submissions to the inquiry into policies relating to climate change. I am responding on behalf of the ACT Government as responsibility for climate change falls within my portfolio.

The ACT Government is supportive of the introduction of an emissions trading scheme. However, we are concerned that actions to reduce emissions by states and territories to go beyond the targeted reductions of the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS) may not achieve real reductions in greenhouse emissions, given that these actions may not correspond to a reduction in emission permits.

The ACT Legislative Assembly is currently conducting an inquiry into the establishment of a legislated greenhouse gas emissions target for the ACT. The inquiry has been asked to consider the relationship between the ACT target and national policy measures. The ACT Standing Committee on Climate Change, Environment and Water is scheduled to report by 30 July 2009. It is quite possible that the inquiry will recommend adopting a target that goes beyond the Commonwealth's targets under the CPRS.

Further investigation by the Commonwealth is needed to identify how efforts by states and territories to go beyond the CPRS target can meaningfully contribute to reducing greenhouse gases. This is particularly important in the ACT as approximately 95 per cent of the ACT's emissions relate to sectors that will be covered by the CPRS.

It is a significant concern of mine that state and territory jurisdictions may not be able to implement more stringent climate change policies that contribute to achieving real reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. I believe that it would be useful if the Senate Select Committee on Climate Policy could explore this impact further.

ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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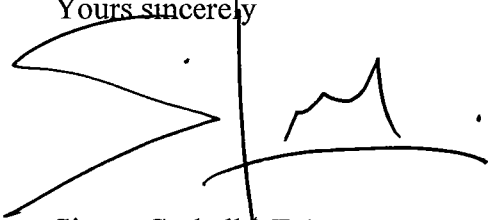
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Market mechanisms such as the CPRS can play a key role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. However, there is an important role for renewable energy, carbon sequestration and behavioural change in moving to a low carbon economy. There is an appropriate role for Government in providing incentives to ensure more action is taken to mitigate climate change effects in the short to medium term. Early action will reduce the total level of adjustment costs compared to a trajectory that delays action.

Renewable energy technology is continually evolving and this evolution will be further stimulated across Australia with the introduction of an emissions trading scheme, an expanded renewable energy target and government incentives. The ACT Government is committed to greater use of renewable generation to meet our electricity needs and to supporting industry in developing commercially viable renewable energy technologies in the ACT.

I trust that this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'S' followed by a vertical line and a jagged, mountain-like shape.

Simon Corbell MLA
Minister for the Environment, Climate Change and Water

14 APR 2009