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

To Whom It May Concern

Re: Senate Select Committee on Climate Policy

I would like to make the following comments regards the governments climate change policy.

A) I agree in the theory of emissions trading as a useful means of creating an economic incentive for investment in clean energy and low emissions technology however there are some definite flaws in the proposed carbon pollution reduction scheme legislation as currently proposed. The most important of these being that the proposed 5-15% target is far too low. There is evidence around the globe that climate change is happening now. Permafrost in the arctic is melting fast and lakes are forming everywhere with methane leaking out of these lakes. Great areas of the Amazon are dying due to the prolonged drought. These events highlight the fact that it is not time for mediocre targets. Instead we need strong targets in the area of a 40% reduction from 1990 levels by 2020. The proposed 5-15% target is too lax and behind the UK, many European nations and the levels the US is discussing. Australia is at a risk of being left behind holding on to old technologies and industries while the rest of the world gets out of the current economic crisis by pushing their economies towards green, low-carbon economies.

B) The emissions trading scheme in its current form does not place a definite cap on emissions permits. There is a limit to the number of auctioned emissions units however there is no limit to the number of emissions units provided by the government at a fixed price, or the number of emissions units traded into the Australian scheme. There should be a limit to the number of international units a firm can purchase as Australia has an international duty to limit its pollution. Australia needs to ensure that it is making a real contribution to limiting climate change not just introducing a complicated system of paper pushing.

C) A emissions trading scheme is just a starting point for managing climate change. Climate change has come about because humans have disturbed nature's natural cycles (such as the carbon cycle) to such a huge extent. Changes much greater than what can be exerted by a carbon trading scheme need to be brought about if humans want to live within natures natural cycles again (this is essential if we want to limit dangerous climatic change).

   i. Coal mining needs to be phased out in favour of more sustainable energy production e.g solar, wind and hydro. Thus any assistance given to the coal-fired energy producers via the emissions trading scheme needs to be contingent on a phase out plan. We can no longer (despite the jobs and money) support this technology which is destroying the climate, our rivers, habitat and creating vast tracts of unusable land.

   ii. Economic incentives need to be put in place to encourage (and I don't think many of us need much encouragement, just a little help – we are ready for the change) everyday people to make changes to their lives. For example their needs to be a national system for gross solar feed-in tariffs to give a much needed boost to the Australian solar industry.

   iii. There needs to be a lot more support for local 'green' industries. Whats the use for instance of producing a solar cell in China when we need the jobs here? (not to mention the wasted energy in shipping a solar cell all that way)

   iv. Clearing of any vegetation needs to be banned and much greater attention given to deforestation as a causal factor of climatic change. The CSIRO Sustainability Network creates a very strong argument that **rising carbon dioxide levels are a**

symptom of climate change and not a causal factor and that the real causal factor is the progressive deforestation of the planet that has occurred since the commencement of agriculture (refer to "The biology of global warming and its profitable mitigation" CSIRO Sustainability Network, Update 64, 15 February 2007, pp1-3 www.bml.csiro.au/SNewsletters.htm). If the CSIRO is in fact correct our efforts to manage carbon dioxide levels will have little effect especially if deforestation continues.

v. Major revegetation projects need to be put in place. It is only revegetation which will deal with climate change if deforestation is the causal factor (and will also deal with rising carbon dioxide levels if this is the causal factor). 'Clean coal' and carbon sinks within the ocean and other similar projects are possibly a very huge waste of money if in fact deforestation is the cause.

vi. Australia needs to work very closely with other countries such as Indonesia to stop deforestation in these countries and help these countries replant their forests and find other industries besides deforestation to support their populace.

vii. More effort needs to go into changing everyday behaviours and attitudes. Humans need to be living locally and working within their local communities to grow the food and make the things they need. Local market gardens are a great way of getting carbon back into the soils (especially when local communities compost their household scraps and paper at the garden) and providing food where it is eaten (rather than trucking it all over the place). Stronger measures such as population controls and controls on use of motor vehicles (whilst new cars such as the new all-electric car are great they is still a lot of energy used in their production) may also be needed. We cannot go far enough to help create a future for our children and their grandchildren.

Do not ignore the comments regarding deforestation – we have to ensure our focus is correct. I fear deforestation is getting lost as an issue with all the focus on carbon emissions.

Yours sincerely

Amanda Lehman