

Submission to Senate Select Committee on Climate Policy

Ann McGregor

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The threat of global climate change to life as we know it (both human and non-human) is a terrifying prospect. The recent bushfires in Victoria provided a taste of what is to come. This year is crunch time – our political leaders must take strong decisions for immediate and effective action, before it is too late.

I wish to make the following comments on the proposed Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme:

1. **The target for 2020 is ridiculously low.** It should be a 25-40% reduction on 1990 levels.
2. **Government revenue from the scheme should be used on complementary measures** (below) **to restructure our infrastructure and economy for a low-carbon future**, not frittered away as handouts to households and big emitters.
3. **Complementary measures** to the CPRS are urgent and essential, particularly:
 - **protection of all native vegetation** from clearing, logging and degradation as long-term carbon stores
 - a high Mandatory **Renewable Energy Target, and support for renewable energy technologies**
 - support and regulations for **energy efficiency** measures to create jobs and reduce energy costs
 - extensive **revegetation** using indigenous species.
4. **Buying offsets overseas should not be permitted**, as this allows emitters to avoid emission reductions in Australia. A separate international fund is required to protect forests in developing countries.
5. **Voluntary action by households, state and local governments, etc should not be included within the cap/target**, as this simply makes ‘business as usual’ easier for the big emitters.