

To the Senate Select Committee on Climate Change,

We would like to express our concern about the Government's proposed scheme for addressing Climate Change.

1. The proposed 5-15% target for emission reductions is far too low, and does not take the risk of the future impact of climate change seriously enough. Australia must play its full part in the global response to climate change. We cannot expect special treatment, when people around the world are already losing their homelands and farmlands to rising seas and changing weather patterns.

According to the 2007 IPCC Fourth Assessment Report, by 2020 75–220 million more people in Africa will face water stress because declining rainfall, droughts and heatwaves will become more frequent in already water-stressed regions. Cyclones and heavy rains are likely to become more intense in tropical regions, and 40–60 million more Africans will be exposed to malaria if temperatures rise beyond 1.5°.

Australia needs to reduce its greenhouse gases dramatically and seek to cut emissions to 40% of 1990 levels by 2020, and advocate for other developed nations to do the same.

2. We also feel as the world's highest per capita emitter of greenhouse gases, Australia should play our fair share in assisting poorer nations to respond to the impact of climate change. Australia has budgeted just \$35 million for this purpose in 2008/09. An estimate of our fair share of meeting these adaptation costs reaches around \$1.7 billion by 2010.

Yours sincerely

Terri Van Wezel, Paul Van Wezel, Suzanne Piovesan, John Piovesan, Heidi Rurade, Penny Kleemann, Mike Penberthy, Jess Stanley