

Dear Members of the Senate

I write as a concerned Physicist and a former Director of AusEnergy, who has followed and been involved in the Carbon debate since the late 1960's - probably before some of you were born. When I was educated in Australia in the late 1950's we were being taught at school Dalton's theory of the Atom (smallest indivisible particle) at the same time as the British Government were dropping atomic bombs on Australian territory. We were also taught in the early 1960's that Australia did not have a range of mineral wealth other than coal and iron ore at the same time as the greatest mineral boom in Australia's history was going on. We were taught that the Australian Aborigines did not fight the invading European settlers (and hence by implication did not deserve to share in Australia's riches). Yes we were taught that which Governments were comfortable with us knowing!

Times have moved on and having recently rid ourselves of another conservative government who's continued denial of Global warming (well there wasn't a scientist among them - what else would you expect from a mob of failed lawyers!) and Mushroom treatment of the Australian population led to Australia missing (once again) an enormous industrial revolution and jobs creation opportunity let alone put Australia onto the path for sustainable development.

Now we see what surely must be the most conservative Labour Government in the history of Australia introduce a piece of the most shameful legislation - the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme Legislation. This time round there can be no excuses. For almost 30 years the global scientific community has spoken about the dangers of global warming - the level of agreement amongst this global community is unique. Not before on any issue has there been such unanimity. More recently even the Economists have demonstrated a sudden awareness of externalities and how they can swamp the real economy. The evidence is overwhelming! So how can a bunch of presumably well educated and supposedly informed representatives of the Australian people produce such a disastrous piece of legislation? That of course is a rhetorical question. We all know the real reasons - and they are POLITICAL - "he who pays the piper calls the tune". (See Energy in Australia - Politics and Economics 1981, Dr Hugh Saddler)

But surely in the 21st century we all know where that approach has led us. Stagnation and obsolescence! The Australian Coal Industry has ridden on the back of Australian workers for more than 100 years and not just those down the mines. Generation after generation the coal industry has had the ear of politicians in Canberra and Sydney and Melbourne and Brisbane. Government after Government has gone against the wishes of the local populations in support of this Industry without ever really asking that this industry give anything back to the community as a whole. And now we have the spectacle of Governments trying to pick winners with "Clean Coal Technology". Now don't laugh I know that's an oxymoron or as my eight year old daughter likes to call it an Aussiemoron. But yes I was involved in the 1960's in Clean Coal Technology - the coal washing industry! Yes really! before you can use coal you need to "clean it" and they used a slurry of magnetite to float the coal. The magnetite had to be recovered (magnetically) and hence its magnet properties were critical to this whole process! And that's about all that clean coal technology will be worth in your

lifetime! Its a wonder that the ugly spectrum of Nuclear Power (remember when we used to call it Atomic Power?) has not got a run or better still what about Fusion Power? Why not cold fusion? Fairy dust and people pedal power! Remember politicians can only fool some of the people some of the time but they can always fool themselves all of the time!

It surely is an insult that not only has the special pleading of the coal industry basically made Australia's Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme Legislation the laughing stock of the Industrial World but that Australia's Tax Payers are going to fund multinational corporations to do R&D that they should have been funding out of their exported profits for years. If you look at how much the Australian Coal Industry has spent on R&D over the past ten years and divide that by the amount of revenue they have generated, my guess is that there would not be enough zeros' on your calculator to be able to give you an answer!

Now back to Jobs!

In the early 1980's Australia was at the forefront of Solar Energy research and Industrial mass production. Being one of only three countries in the world with Japan and the USA. We had the Ideas, the R&D and the capability to become a dominant world player which we were up to the late 1990's. At that time Germany was nowhere to be seen! Last week BP closed down Australia's only "real" mass production Photovoltaic Manufacturing Factory. A DIRECT RESULT OF MORE THAN 25 YEARS OF FAILED GOVERNMENT ENERGY POLICIES. (Perhaps we should ask all those public servants and government ministers to give back their salaries and travel costs to all those international RE conferences they would have willingly attended and FOR WHAT PURPOSE!) Back in 1982 the Federal Department of Minerals and Energy (strange combination that?) issued a report stating that there was no future for manufacturing PV in Australia. That by 1985 the industry in Australia would vanish! Well unusual for a government department's report they were right just got the time wrong by 27 years!

Whilst all this was going on or not in Australia, Germany decided to make a real push into the Renewable Energy industry around 2000. In 2008 the RE industry in Germany was worth more than US\$50 billion and it employed 250,000 people. In 2000 Australia was A WORLD LEADER in PV today it is a backwater and an importer of technology!

So just as with wind energy in the 1980's Australia has lost another technology option for sustainable jobs creation in the energy industry. When will our politicians Learn? Why must we be destined to repeat the same old cycles - Governments jumping to the tunes of failed industries but failing to support emerging industries.

Senate Members, the peoples' representatives of their State. You have a once in a lifetime opportunity to change the paradigm bequeathed to you by generations of failed politicians. You have the power, the responsibility and the obligation that comes with your position to do something that Australian Governments in the past have failed to do. You have the opportunity to secure Australia's sustainable future, to once again make Australia a world leader in environmentally clean and sustainable energy technology, to create significant value added

wealth and hundred's of thousands of jobs, a future for your children and grand children. And how can you achieve all of this - its simple not rocket science not science at all really it is just once of those really simple moral options - REJECT THIS BILL! and replace it with a bill that addresses the real issues with real solutions with real investment and with real hope!

Bring in 50% reductions in CO2 by 2020! and 80% by 2050!

Respectfully yours

Dr Bruce Robins