

To Whom It May Concern,

I write as a concerned citizen to urge the Government and Parliament to enact a robust and strong scheme that will reduce our carbon emissions, set a standard to hold up to the rest of the world, and ensure we create sustainable jobs for the future economy that we need to be generating.

The Government's 5-15% carbon pollution reduction target on 2000 levels is not enough to avoid dangerous climate change. We should instead commit to reducing Australia's greenhouse pollution 40% by 2020 on 1990 levels.

That reduction is the global standard that we need to avoid the dangerous climate changes now being predicted by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. New scientific findings show that climate change is happening much more quickly than previously thought. The Arctic summer sea ice is now expected to melt entirely within the next five years.

Australia's weak target is undermining efforts to form crucial international agreement and must be improved before December's important UN Conference on Climate Change in Copenhagen.

The Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS) currently proposed by the Government is a badly designed scheme that will do more harm than good. The scheme design over-compensates polluters at the expense of the community and environment. It also creates a proprietary right for the amount of pollution that is purchased by business, meaning that should government need to make further cuts they will have to pay large sums of money to compensate. This is already the case with the Murray Darling water buyback scheme.

Setting a strong target with a well-designed scheme will ensure Australia does its fair share to avoid dangerous climate change, and it will also help refocus our economy to take advantage of new growth industries in renewable energy.

Because the CPRS imposes a floor beyond which emissions cannot fall, the action individuals and small businesses take to reduce energy will not reduce Australia's total greenhouse emissions further than the Government's weak target of 5-15%. In fact their action will only make room for industry to increase their emissions under that cap.

I urge you to make the changes to the scheme that are needed for our collective future.

Yours sincerely,

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