

7 April 2009

The Secretary  
Senate Select Committee on Climate Policy

Dear Senators,

Thank you for inviting submissions to the Senate Select Committee on Climate Policy.

I am concerned about the current Emissions Trading Scheme for the following reasons:-

Firstly, Australia, as the largest polluter on the planet per capita, must commit to a carbon reduction of much more than 5-15%. Instead we should be aiming for 30-40% on 1990 levels to ensure we prevent the disastrous consequences of climate change.

If developing countries, such as China and India, follow our lead and pollute the same amount per capita, it will have devastating consequences on the planet. We must set an example for others to follow. It would be extremely selfish for us to believe that we should be able to emit higher carbon emissions than developing countries that are not as well off as ourselves.

I understand that the government, to prevent Australian jobs moving overseas, will be using taxpayer money to purchase carbon credits for big polluters. Instead, we could use the money to invest in green power, such as geothermal, or building wind turbines or solar panels to produce electricity for the big polluters. We would be not only reducing Australia's carbon footprint that year but also for many years to come. This would also create more jobs for Australians in the short term.

From what I have read of the Emissions Trading Scheme, reductions made by individuals will not reduce Australia's carbon footprint, instead it will reduce the amount that big polluters have to cut their emissions by. If this is the case, individual and industry reductions should be measured in separate categories. This would allow households and small businesses to further reduce Australia's carbon footprint, above the target set by the Australian Government, through initiatives such as carbon offsets, green power purchased through energy suppliers and household solar panels.

As Australians, we can be leaders in the climate change crisis and help future generations all over the world by setting a higher target for our emissions reduction and making changes to the current Emissions Trading Scheme.

Yours sincerely,

Cassandra Rogers