

Harry Johnson

Co-ordinator

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Committee Secretary
Senate Select Committee on Climate Policy

2 4 09

Dear Sir

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a public submission to the Senate Select Committee on Climate Policy.

I now submit a short submission.

I believe climate change is the most crucial issue ever to have faced humanity, an issue that will increasingly inconvenience today's adults.

Hansen and many other credible groups suggest we have a mere decade now, today, collectively to do whatever it takes to seriously address the climate crisis.

Unless we do so, the world we will leave to our children and their children will be a world of global climate chaos.

As Greens Senator Christine Milne wrote in The Australian 14 3 09 "No crash through on ETS": 'Nicholas Stern warned years ago that climate change was the world's biggest market failure.'

A market failure resulting from the actions of the Greedy, certain powerful vested interests and the ignorant, in particular those who understand the consequences of their actions, yet still have no intention of changing their behaviour.

It's ironic that the same three cohorts are responsible for the present global turmoil in finance.

The present paradigm that increasing PROFITS will protect PEOPLE and the PLANET has been a miserable failure.

To achieve global sustainability the paradigm shift we must now move towards is that a truly viable economy is based on ecological integrity and social cohesion. Not the other way round.

The U.S. is a global leader, a country that has just made a paradigm shift. As Paul Robson said; 'All handsome men are slightly sunburnt.' The American voters have just elected a coloured President; a paradigm shift in more ways than one from their previous President.

President Obama appears to be initiating paradigm shifts in methods of trying to address the climate crisis.

Leadership on addressing the climate crisis by our Prime Minister, a would-be Climate global leader is to date, paltry in the extreme.

a. ii. While the fossil-fuel and large energy-intensive industries have a seat at the table and the rest of us only pick up stale crumbs from the floor and we have a Government that continues to promote the insane belief in the supposed benefits of population growth in a finite world, life in this fragile world we borrow from our children will in the words of Thomas Hobbes become: 'nasty, brutish and short.'

The same sort of incentives at present provided by the taxpayer/voter to the fossil fuel industries, if instead provided to clean energy and low-emission technology would help us 'change direction so we don't end up where we are heading.' (Old Chinese proverb.)

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b. I believe a GROSS FEED-IN tariff as now occurs in the A.C.T. and Germany would help increase the uptake of photo-voltaic systems.

Energy efficiency measures are essential but fairly pointless when both the COAL-ition and Labor continue to expand the export and use of coal. It would be instructive to find out how many coal enthusiasts have children or grandchildren.

Energy efficiency also results in water efficiency and efficiency in other manufacturing inputs. But there is still a great amount of coyness in the importance of focusing on the amount of energy, water and other manufacturing inputs embodied in products we choose to manufacture, import and use on a daily basis.

Future generations will be amazed that today in Australia we still continue to use extremely durable materials like aluminium, glass, most plastics and steel for ever increasing quantities of single-use disposable products. Disposables seem best suited to a "throw-away" world, whereas durable materials seem best suited to durable products, products that could be refillable, reusable, reliable and where possible, heaven forbid, even repairable.

Re Attachment 1. ^{page 5.} The attachment lists a range of simple, cost-effective "green" measures that could greatly increase the energy efficiency of new housing stock, some of which could be mandated in house renovations.

~~This attachment~~ only consider features that would make it unlikely for a home maker to have to install air conditioning.

The Garnault Report points out the benefits of bio-sequestration. Farmers who plant some of their less productive land with plantings of mixed species of local native trees. The 'green' farmers could be paid annual financial incentives.

There should also be incentives for millers who mill timber as radially sawn timber, a far more material efficient method of milling timber.

Unused or underutilised people who wish to make a volunteer working contribution in their local community are a valuable renewable resource. Their numbers are growing due to our growing, ageing population and our present population policy.

We are all 'temporarily able-bodied'-we will all grow older. So why not use more people with both intellectual and or physical disabilities? In this way retirees and disabled voters would thus be able to contribute towards their pensions, if they so wished.

Such people could help defray the establishment costs of mixed plantings of native trees on increasingly marginal farm land in the following ways- seed collection, seed preparation, seed potting, pricking-out and potting-up seedlings as well as the initial planting of the trees.

Many of these labour-intensive activities are already performed in community nurseries Australia-wide by retirees. These initiatives could easily be expanded.

We already have many unemployed people and people on community service orders. Both groups could participate in more of these initiatives.

One simple energy efficiency measure could be initiated by the introduction of Container Deposit Legislation Australia-wide, as has occurred in South Australia for decades.

The resultant high increase in the retrieval of recyclable beverage containers would be the lead in for C.D.L. Containers Designed to Last, that is the return of the refillable beverage container.

Professor Ian Lowe suggests a 1% cut in consumption is equivalent to a 25 % rate of recycling. Refillable beverage containers would provide a "front-end" solution to inefficient beverage packaging.

Again people with disabilities and retirees could easily be involved in the primary sorting of beverage containers before washing and reuse, ^{THIS} has already been occurring at Kingfisher Recycling Centre, Aspley Special School's waste minimisation initiative for the past 25 years.

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f. More efficient foreign aid.

The mounting climate crisis will make more of our land more marginal for some traditional farm crops. I think it is questionable to continue to export so much of a non value-added crop such as wheat, for exporting such a non value-added crop such as wheat effectively one is exporting our precious top soil and water.

A more sustainable type of foreign aid would to be to provide financial aid to developing nations, the funds explicitly directed to the education of girls and women, for the education of women is the very best way of stabilising population growth.

As well as finding solutions to the climate crisis, we must address Peak water, soil, oil, population and deforestation.

Just as 'business as usual' with a light green fringe will not address the mounting climate crisis, so the present growth paradigm has not and will not address the above fundamental challenges.

Professor Brian Roberts the 1990 Landcare winner suggested this as a sustainable growth paradigm:

'Growth seen as spiritual growth of people who de-emphasise consumer goods, development appreciated as the development of caring communities with emphasis on education and social services, and wealth seen in fundamental terms of a richness of life calculated in the currency of improved personal relations and appreciation of nature.'

Continuing hell-bent on building ever more, ever larger homes with ever more cupboards to be filled with ever more "must have" material nicknacks for ever more people is not and never has been sustainable.

I suggest the growth paradigm we urgently require is growth in education, health, welfare, sustainable transport, housing, buildings, factories and offices, manufacturing practices, farming and recreation, the Arts and spirituality.

The future is what we choose, so instead of using coal royalties to patch up after the growing number of climate crisis disasters such as firestorms, floods and cyclone related oil spills etc; coal royalties could be used to educate the public so that they choose to 'take less (from the Earth), make less, waste less and want less.' Paul Hawken "The Ecology of Commerce."

Of course using \$36 billion a second on military spending generates and wastes an incredible amount of energy as well as a massive number of valuable renewable human resources, that is people killed or maimed either in so-called "war games" or global military madness.

A 5% cut in global military spending would feed, clothe, house and even educate the world about climate change and population stabilisation. But who would actually have shares in armaments manufacture or arms dealing?

I close with one further thought. How many taxpayer dollars will it cost to compensate for and build the proposed Traveston Crossing Dam to the north of Brisbane? Business as usual.

Why not instead use the same funds for a very simple initiative that will capture more rainwater, create a large amount of genuine employment in Australia, save valuable farm land close to Brisbane and other large urban centres and at the same time help slow the mounting pace of the climate crisis by generating less greenhouse gases?

The climate crisis is changing rainfall patterns and higher temperatures with consequent higher evaporation rates; so why not install rainwater tanks at every home and building to provide basic employment? results in

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The tanks capture rainfall exactly where it falls and if used for all non-potable uses, avoid the high energy costs involved in transporting and treating water to a potable standard.

Unlike water stored in a dam, evaporation losses are also minimised.

I wish the Committee well in its deliberations and thank the Committee for the opportunity to participate in the Inquiry.

Our children, our grandchildren and their children leave the deliberations about the world they will inherit in your hands.

As Aaron Woods a former Young Australian of the ^{Year} said to a packed hall full of High School students: 'You are only 20% of the population, but you are 100% of the future.'

All the best in the future you choose.

Yours faithfully,

Harry Johnson

Harry Johnson

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CRISIS

The Producer
Saturday Extra

22 09

Dear Sir

Thank you this week's coverage on the climate crisis perils of air conditioning.

The \$64 000 question is how to convince the general community that knowledge on how to address the climate crisis is more important than last night's fantastic tennis match and that clean air, soil and water (our legal "performance enhancing substances") and species diversity are more important than last night's not so fantastic cricket result.

I think it would be extremely helpful to run a short feature on very basic housing design features that if implemented in new housing and retro-fitted in existing housing stock over time would remove the need for any air-conditioning in the home. (These features are in SALA homes (sustainable affordable living australia.)

The following environmentally friendly features would be most effective:

Orientate house to a northerly aspect.

Beezeway through centre of home.

Verandah to shade interior from summer sun, not too wide to exclude winter sun.

Only small windows on western and eastern walls.

Durra board (wheat straw) insulation panels particularly on western wall. Bulk insulation can replace Durra board in colder climates.

Trees planted to shade western wall from afternoon sun or build garage at western end of house.

Reflective foil for walls, roof and floors.

Louvre windows or double glazed casement windows in colder climates.

In non-concrete slab houses, allow cool air from under the house to be drawn up through the walls, into the ceiling cavity and expelled via roof vents.

Heavy drapes and pelmets around windows.

Position toilet, shower and laundry on southern side.

Provide ample venting for refrigerator.

Low energy/low heat light globes.

Offset ceiling fans in lounge, kitchen, study and bedrooms.

High pitched light coloured roof. Roof eaves wide enough to provide protection from summer sun.

More frequent and severe climate extremes such as recent hot weather in Adelaide and Melbourne and the consequent bushfires down south and cyclonic rainfall up north will make more people hot under the collar about the growing climate crisis so that a feature on housing features that don't cost the Earth on your program or on By Design I think would now be very well received.

Many thanks as always for top A.B.C. Radio.

All the best in the future you choose for your family,

Yours sincerely,

Harry Johnson

