

3 June 2009

Committee Secretary
Senate Select Committee on Climate Policy
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

Dear Sir

IS IT NECESSARY AT ALL?

I wish to make the following submission to the Committee.

I note the terms of reference which include, inter alia, “any related matter”.

It would appear the Committee is thus permitted to address the basic question of whether a “carbon pollution reduction scheme” is required at all.

My submission is simple.

1. There appears to be legitimate room for scientific debate about whether man-made carbon dioxide emissions are causing climate change or global warming;
2. whether climate change or global warming are good or bad things seems open to debate;
3. Australia with 21 million people among 6 billion on this earth is really not that important in the grand scheme of things anyway; but
4. imposing a carbon tax or emissions trading scheme will *certainly* impose costs on production and drive down Australian standards of living, especially if we are facing a global depression and cannot pass on extra costs to buyers of our wares; so

*Why do anything until the science is proved **and** there is global agreement?*

If it be argued that the science is indeed proved, I would note that –

1. Computer models are not scientific or experimental truth machines but simulations based on humanly-chosen parameters and inputs;
2. the choice of social discount rate is arbitrary; and
3. there are books and articles disputing the science (such as the attached) which do not seem to have been refuted as irrational.

Yours sincerely

Terence Dwyer
Visiting Fellow
Crawford School of Economics and Government
Australian National University