

To: Committee Secretary  
Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts Department  
of the Senate.

Re: Senator Christine Milne Feed-in Tariff Private Member's Bill

There is growing apprehension in the wider Australian community that Australia is a very long way behind the 'clever' European countries which are taking Climate Change very seriously indeed.

Under the past Federal Government, Australia lagged a long way behind on responsible action to meet the World's climate challenges. In this global emergency, leadership has been shown by European Governments enacting enlightened laws which call for unified co-operation from their peoples. Australians are still waiting to hear from their 'new' Government. Given a good example, they would be willing to move to embrace 'solar energy', 'reverse cycle heat pumps and others, in new housing laws and retro-fitting older homes. With this personal involvement by its peoples, the nation can move forward to take its place amongst other enlightened nations to protect the Planet.

Christine Milne's Feed-in Tariff Private Member's Bill - from perhaps Australia's most enlightened Parliamentarian on Climate Change - should be adopted. Here, the present Australian Government has a first-class advisor on the subject, and must work on a big catch-up, setting examples to their peoples to take this threat seriously. With that approval, they can then take on the big corporations and heavy polluters who need more persuading. Co-operative action from all Parties is essential.

The most recent data of carbon sinks held protectively in the Old Growth Forests of our nation must be seen as a high national asset. Planned protection for these forests are as urgent as planning 'claw-back' on approved and subsidised old bad habits for the coal industry and heavy polluters.

Subsidising better protection of Indonesia's or other nation's forests will not balance out our own pollution.

Thank you for the opportunity to express this view.

Melva Truchanas