

The Secretary

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

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### DANDENONG RANGES RENEWABLE ENERGY ASSOCIATION INC

Our Association has just over 100 members. It is one of a growing number of community organisations that organise bulk installations of solar panels and solar hot water systems for community members.

We do this because we believe that the uptake of renewable energy is an important means of reducing our carbon emissions.

Our concern about the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme is that it will not reduce Australia's carbon emissions and it will make voluntary abatement measures ineffective.

To prevent this from happening we believed the proposed CPRS requires significant amendment.

The existence of a 'floor' below which emissions cannot fall will merely free up permits for big polluters making the efforts of community groups like ours counter-productive.

This feature of the CPRS must be amended so that individuals and groups can install solar panels etc confident in the knowledge that their efforts are reducing our net emissions.

We also have a number of other concerns about the design of the CPRS. These are outlined below.

Firstly we believe that the compensation paid to the biggest polluters is excessive. Also, any compensation paid to big polluters should shrink over time.

Secondly, emissions permits should not be treated like property rights. This approach could impose a significant financial burden on taxpayers if it is needed to cut emissions more quickly than previously anticipated.

Thirdly, allowing unlimited trading of permits on the international market would be a mistake because some or all of our emission reductions could be outsourced to other countries. There would then be no significant incentive to reduce emissions in Australia.

Finally, we believe that emissions reduction target of 5-15% by 2020 is quite inadequate. It is not consistent with current science and it sets a bad example to other countries. With such a low target Australia and the world will not be able to avoid uncontrollable climate change.

Peter Cook

President

Dandenong Ranges Renewable Energy Association Inc