

climate change: you will make the difference

greenhouse pollution is still rising
we have this year and next to stop it
...or the sun sets on this gorgeous planet
and its inhabitants...

The Government is seeking letters
from Australians about how to reduce
carbon pollution...

turn over for some ideas to put in your letter
Send your letters by 10th September

Mail your letter to:
Department of Climate Change
GPO Box 854
Canberra ACT 2601

more info:
www.risingtide.org.au/nowornever
ph: (02) 49261641

Send a copy to the Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Fax: (02) 6273 4100

and Minister for Climate Change, Penny Wong
Fax: (02) 6273 7330

Email: emissionstrading@climatechange.gov.au

Department of Climate Change
GPO Box 854
Canberra ACT 2601

Your name and address

Today's date

CC: Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd, Parliament House, Canberra
Minister for Climate Change, Penny Wong, Parliament House, Canberra

Dear Minister Wong,

This is a submission to the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme Green Paper.

1. Greenhouse pollution must peak and begin to decline by 2010.

Climate change is an emergency problem that requires emergency action. Greenhouse pollution must peak the year the proposed Scheme begins. This means that immediate laws are required to directly reduce pollution, in addition to the planned Scheme.

2. A ban on new coal power plants, coal mines, and coal exports is needed.

Coal fired power stations are Australia's biggest source of greenhouse pollution, and pollution from our coal exports effectively double our greenhouse footprint. It will be impossible to stabilise or reduce Australia's emissions in the near to medium term without beginning to phase out coal.

3. Free permits or cash payments must not be given to heavily polluting industries.

There is an important difference between shielding dependent communities from the impacts of greenhouse abatement on heavily polluting industries, and shielding the industries themselves. Compensating these industries allows business to continue as usual and discourages major change.

4. Revenue must be used for restructuring, not compensation.

Solving climate change requires major restructuring of our society and economy, and the windfall revenue from the auction of pollution permits is a great opportunity to make this happen. Money should be spent on renewable and distributed energy generation; phase-out and industry restructuring for emissions-intensive products like coal, beef, aluminium and cement; investment in public transport and a Biodiversity Fund to provide incentives for native reforestation.

5. Rapid, wholesale greenhouse pollution reductions are needed.

60% pollution reductions by 2050 are not enough – by that stage Australia must be emitting no net pollution. Regardless of the target, large early reductions will mean less overall volume of greenhouse gases entering the atmosphere from Australia over the intervening four decades. The bulk of pollution cuts are needed in the next two decades.

6. Forestry and reforestation credits can't offset greenhouse pollution.

Protecting and replanting forests to soak up carbon and protect biodiversity is important, but is no replacement for cutting greenhouse pollution. We need both pollution cuts, and carbon draw down from the atmosphere. Reforestation efforts must be separate to the Scheme, and no "carbon credits" from tree planting should be used to offset greenhouse pollution. For this reason and others, international carbon credits from the Kyoto Protocol should not be used in the Scheme.

Yours faithfully,