

Submission to the Garnaut Climate Change Review

As citizens of rural Australia we fully support the call for prompt action on climate change and the need to urgently work towards a 60% reduction in our emissions by 2020 and 90% by 2050.

Australia's State and Federal Governments need to set an example and show leadership. We acknowledge and support that this will require not only technological change, but lifestyle change and reduced consumption. This has been shown to be achievable in the Mckinsey Report
http://www.mckinsey.com/client-service/ccsi/pdf/Australian_Cost_Curve_for_GHG_Reduction.pdf

We need to assist poorer developing nations – financially and technologically to take action against deforestation, and developing alternative energy industries.

Our COAL EXPORTS SHOULD NOT BE IGNORED.

Just one of the new coal mines planned for the Hunter Valley will produce 10 million tonnes of fossil carbon, generating the equivalent of 5% of Australia's total GHG emissions. Clean coal technology is not a practical alternative, there needs to be a moratorium on new coal mines and coal export facilities.

Building more coal fired power stations is reckless and irresponsible behaviour. Instead we need to be developing a just and smooth transition to sustainable alternative industries and employment for coal dependent regions. Carbon capture and storage technologies are too little too late. For long term security Australia needs to diversify our stationary power sources.

There should be recognition that FOSSIL CARBON is the main driver of global warming. Other industries such as agriculture and forestry can play an active role in reducing and sequestering carbon emissions. For example agricultural practises can and are being adapted to be net users of carbon through soil and vegetation sequestration.

The urgent problem of climate change is both a challenge and opportunity for society. We need to address our over consumption and waste, while improving efficiency. Unsustainable growth is a form of cancer, a new economic paradigm is needed.

Thankyou for the opportunity to have input into the Garnaut Review process.

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