

Dear Professor Ross Garnaut,

As a young Australian, I am extremely concerned about climate change and more importantly, Australia's lack of urgency in addressing this issue. I can see the effect climate change is having on our country with rising temperatures, extreme weather, damage to reefs and marine life and the destruction of flora and fauna. Climate change is an important issue, not only now, but for future generations. I want to be proud to be part of a nation that acts promptly to climate change and sets strong, science-based targets to reduce greenhouse pollution by at least 30% by 2020.

My greatest concerns are that over the past century:

- Global temperatures have risen by  $0.74 \pm 0.18$  Celsius
- 11 of the last 12 years rank in the 12 warmest years
- Arctic sea-ice has declined by  $2.7 \pm 0.6$  percent per decade
- Sea levels have risen by  $1.9 \pm 0.5$ mm per year 1961-2003
- There has been a rise in ocean acidification of 0.1 pH units

*(Source: IPCC Fourth Assessment Report, Working Group 1, available at [www.ipcc.ch/](http://www.ipcc.ch/))*

It is critical Australia acts now! In doing so we can save our great natural icons like the Great Barrier Reef and Kakadu for future generations. But this will only occur if we set strong targets, based on science, to reduce greenhouse pollution by 30% by 2020.

This strong and well positioned target will open up many opportunities for Australia in different and greener industries. Instead of being a leading export of resources, Australia could lead the world in solar technology. As the resource industries decline, the green industries will only increase, creating new job opportunities for Australians. These opportunities are not only important for my generation, but those generations yet to come, who may not be able to experience great natural wonders such as Kakadu.

Ground-breaking research by global economists McKinsey showed Australia can achieve a 30 per cent cut in greenhouse pollution by 2020 – at a cost of just 80 cents a day for each Australian. What a small price to pay to save our icons, environment, flora and fauna and protect them for the future.

I urge you to recommend that Australia sets strong, science-based targets to reduce greenhouse pollution by at least 30 per cent by 2020.

A 30 per cent reduction in greenhouse pollution by 2020 is affordable and achievable.

I look forward to your response to this submission and hope that my support for cutting greenhouse pollution by 30% by 2020 is backed by all Australians.

Regards,

Sarah  
Southport, QLD