

## Garnaut Climate Change Review

I am making this submission as a concerned member of the general public. I am concerned about the impact climate change is already having on our planet and on Australia, let alone future changes that will impact on both our unique flora and fauna, and our children's health, well-being and possibly their ability to survive.

On my bookcase I have a photo of an emperor penguin with chick in the Antarctic. To me it is a testament to the diversity of our planet – these birds survive and rear their young in one of the most inhospitable places on earth. Recently more than one reputable scientist has said (in different forums, e.g. the media, natural history meetings) that climate change has already advanced to far to save these magnificent birds (due to melting of the ice caps). The thought of these birds enduring such harsh conditions for centuries, only to slide towards extinction due to man, filled me with considerable distress. And this is just one example of species and ecosystems headed for extinction because of climate change. Great Australian icons such as the Great Barrier Reef and Kakadu, as well as less well-known but just as beautiful and unique areas such as the Macquarie Marshes, are all at risk unless we (as a species) change what we are doing quickly. Losing these will be a great loss to future generations of Australians, as well as having a significant effect on Australia's tourism industry.

As an individual I am doing what I can, but am finding that there is a limit to what one person can do. It is expensive to retrofit houses to improve their energy efficiency, and families barely making ends meet in the face of rising interest rates will find it difficult to purchase green power let alone consider do anything else. In the workplace (a federal government department), we are told to leave our computers on each night (in case our IT supplier wants to download a software upgrade), rather than reduce power by turning them off. Shopping centres (and sometimes offices) are over-heated or over-cooled, with the heating or cooling being lost every time the automatic doors open. Everyday life is full of examples of energy wastage, most of which individuals have little control over. Meeting the needed targets to reduce or stabilize climate change will involve changes in attitudes and practices of individuals, business and government. However, the alternative will in the long term have an even greater adverse effect on all three.

I believe that Australia should set strong, science-based targets to reduce greenhouse pollution by at least 30% by 2020. We are a relatively rich country with one energy source in abundance – solar power. If we worked on development of more solar power technologies, we could reduce our greenhouse pollution, increase jobs in this new industry, and increase export dollars through sale of these technologies and their products overseas.

I urge that you set strong, science-based targets to reduce greenhouse pollution by at least 30% by 2020, and that you recommend addressing the financial implications to both the community and business.

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