

Submission to the Garnaut Review

Presentation Sisters Wagga

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As the Government has asked Professor Ross Garnaut to write a report on the economic implications of climate change for Australia you would be led to believe the Government of today is serious about the situation with what is happening on our Planet. Asking a very important question to begin with is, 'How much will our economy be damaged by climate impacts if we don't reduce greenhouse pollution? What are the economic costs and benefits of moving to a clean low-carbon economy?'

I would like to begin with a couple of quotes.

David Korten in 'Only One reason to Grant a Corporate Charter' says,

"Private-benefit corporations are not touching any proposal that would limit aggregate consumption or their own power. In its present form, the private-benefit corporation is incapable of voluntarily sacrificing profits to a larger public good. Yet this is exactly what would be required for them to provide leadership in reducing aggregate consumption, increasing equality, and redirecting the economy from producing what is profitable to producing what is needed for healthy children, families, communities, and nature."

YES Magazine December 6th, 2007

And

Arun Maria in 'It's A Three -legged Race',

"Standing on a one-legged stool is not a sustainable condition. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reports on climate change have woken up the world to the unsustainability of the prevalent paradigm of economic development.

Growth of GDP is one leg; improvement of the condition of society with social harmony is the second; and the environment is the third. The inconvenient truth facing the world is, 'It is not only the economy stupid'. **The Times of India, New Delhi 4/12/07**

I am not an expert and do not supply figures etc. but have been involved in this issue of Climate Change and the effect on Economy of a Nation for a period of time.

As Social -Justice Co-Ordinator of our Congregation I read and hear in many places organizations and individuals react to the focus on economy and how if we try to reduce emissions we will all be living in poverty!

We are on the brink of committing ourselves to dangerous climate change, but the right decisions now will make all the difference to future generations. I believe that the Government must set targets which are science-based targets to reduce greenhouse pollution by at least 30 per cent by 2020.

If we do this we will be able -

To save our great natural icons, like the Great Barrier Reef and Kakadu – but only if we set strong science-based targets to reduce greenhouse pollution by 2020.

To open up new opportunities for Australia –opportunities to once again be a world leader in solar technologies.

Provide opportunities for new jobs in booming clean-tech industries.

Most important provide opportunities for our kids to grow up in a cleaner, safer

world.

On a practical note which will effect all people, Professor J Quiggin states, ‘More frequent and severe droughts will lead to significantly higher food prices for Australians unless strong action is taken to reduce emissions, in a new report.

John Quiggin, Australian Research Council Federation Fellow School of Economics and School of Political Science and International Studies

“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. That's a small price to pay for a better, safer future for our kids” **Don Henry, ACF's executive director**

As Ian Lowe said, **Shaping a Sustainable Future**

“The most important question we face is: what sort of Australia do we want? The future is not somewhere we are going, but something we are creating. Will it be a clean, green sustainable future? Or will it leave our children a dreadful legacy of climate change, radioactive waste and derelict land?

I urged the Government to act on reducing greenhouse pollution by at least 30 per cent by 2020.

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