

To: Submissions
Garnaut Climate Change Review
Level 2, 1 Treasury Place
Melbourne VIC 3002

I lived in Asia for 8 years, travelling around the major cities. My husband has a yacht so we saw many remote places and were constantly saddened by the pollution which is everywhere. We saw a lot of the countryside and again a lot of wasteland. Deforestation. My husband is an engineer and his areas are Middle East, South East Asia and Africa. He is faced almost daily by the pollution in these cities and areas. It is heartbreaking to experience the stench and filth which are so typical for these places. We here in Australia are so very fortunate to have relatively clear air, beaches and bush lands etc. This is mainly due no doubt to the campaigns brought about by organisations like the Australian Conservation Foundation. We are already proving that we can make a difference. We recently attended the Clean Up Australia Day with the Joey Scouts. It was quite surprising just how relatively little litter we collected from the Bay area. Last year there was 10 times the quantity. Something is obviously working.

I believe the government should be supporting every Australian to reduce carbon emissions - with their cars (make gas conversion affordable for all Australians) - promote hybrid cars and make them standard - phasing out big/old engine cars. More incentives and reductions for those people building new homes to make them self sufficient. More incentives for using less carbon and make it expensive for using more. Promote permaculture in it's entirety. Teach us to grow our own vegetables (rooftop gardens are fast becoming the norm in Europe). Put water fountains in shopping centres to encourage us to stop buying plastic bottles of water.

I am not a scientist but it's pretty obvious that we need to learn to use less. It's obvious we are heading for a burnout, but it is, I am sure, possible to save the planet before it is too late. I support the Garnaut Climate Change Review findings and believe we need to act fast to cut our emissions by 30% by 2020. We owe it to ourselves, our children, the planet. We Australians are in a very strong position to show the world how it can be done. Stand up Australia..

Helen Tree
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