

Denise McKenna
Newborough 3825
16th March 2008

Submission

Garnaut Climate Change Review

Dear Professor Garnaut,

I am writing to express my strong interest in Australia's response to the threat of climate change. I am 58 years old, a retired Primary School Principal and I have a passion for our responsibility to care for our planet.

In my workplace, community and at home I have been endeavouring to reduce my own carbon footprint and to educate others of the need for us all to adapt our lifestyles in the face of global warming.

I have installed solar panels at my home, solar HWS, energy efficient light globes throughout the house and I have purchased an electric tricycle to reduce my car use. I am also aware that I have been fortunate to be in a position to make these financial and ethical decisions although I have made them in lieu of expensive overseas trips or other recreational choices.

My own experience as an advocate of the reasonable/likely reality of impending climate change is that there are many people in our families and communities who remain sceptical if not derogatory about the need to take action.

We need **visionary leadership** in Australia to present the hard facts in the face of inevitable resistance. I hope such a leader emerges. Kevin Rudd is in a position to take on this role if he has the courage as Australia and the world need someone to inspire in a time of crisis.

My particular points to your Review are:

- **Micro-generation of power (solar, wind, geothermal) needs to be supported by government incentives.** A viable feed-in tariff for small renewable power generation as well as the rebate for up-front costs would encourage more people to invest on a small scale and would bring in economies of scale with larger volume.
- **Public transport infrastructure is imperative.** I live in a regional area of Victoria and although there has been improvement in rail services, there is much more to be done. Pricing and availability of public transport are the key elements for consumers.

- **Environmentally Sustainable Design** for new homes and buildings and a focus on retrofitting of **insulation** for existing buildings. In this regard I also speak as a small scale landlord and I believe the welfare of tenants must be considered which includes incentives for landlords to carry out some basic improvements to maximize **the energy efficiency of their rental properties.**

I am aware of the research by global economists McKinsey & Co (“An Australian Cost Curve for Greenhouse Gas Reduction” 2008) who have presented a case for a 30 percent reduction in greenhouse pollution by 2020 in Australia as affordable and achievable. Their estimate of an initial cost of \$290.00 per household per annum gives a very positive prognosis.

I am aware also of the global complexities of developing an Emissions Trading Scheme which balances all parties. The task is daunting to say the least. The position of Spratt and Sutton (“target practice: where should we aim to prevent dangerous climate change?” 2007) in their submission to your Review calls for a ‘global state of emergency’ given we are facing a ‘ sustainability emergency.’ They also argue that the ‘contract and converge’ model of allocating emissions per capita is unsatisfactory given that developed economies have a greater responsibility and a greater capacity to mitigate the effects of increasing climate change and maintaining quality of life.

They refer to a “Greenhouse Development Rights” framework which has been designed by the US Based climate think-tank EcoEquity which would allocate Australia’s share of the total global cost of meeting the 2 degree cap at 1.7% .(p17)

I would like to see reference to this position in your final report.

I believe that Australia must respond unilaterally and in regional cooperation as your report outlines regardless of the decisions of other world leaders. We also need to develop a realistic and generous policy to environmental refugees from the Pacific region who, the literature suggests, will be the first hit by rising sea levels.

In all, I consider your work to be of vital importance to the future of climate change thinking and acting in Australia. I urge you to challenge us with the seriousness and urgency of the future we will be leaving coming generations if we do not take action now.

My best wishes to you in your work.

Denise McKenna