

I suggest and ask that Professor Garnaut's report take account of the following concerns which I see as among the most important:

(a) a tendency to focus too narrowly on local economic implications of climate change; while economic concerns and solutions are clearly core to the Federal government's brief to Prof Garnaut, it is surely vital that, as Professor Ian Lowe has said, the economy must be a means to serving our needs within the capacities of existing natural systems, not as an end in itself; economic policy and enterprise based on blind greed and consumerism is, under the guise of 'growth,' already moving us towards social collapse; this requires a truly global view of the world's economies which recognises (i) that we will share a common fate with the whole human family, and (ii) that in order to have a sustainable future, we must live within the limits of the available natural systems; and

(b) the 'business-as-usual' mentality and consequent direction being taken by many large government-controlled investment decisions are in direct conflict with the Federal government's stated goals to confront the consequences of climate change; future investments must be in developing renewable energy sources and finding more ways to use clean energy efficiently, not in building more coal-fired power stations and certainly not mining uranium for any reason whatsoever.

I urge that the report incorporate the following objectives for Australia:

(a) to reduce greenhouse emissions by at least 30% by 2020 and by 60% by 2050;

(b) to urgently implement achievable science-based programs to save the Murray River and to ensure the survival of natural wonders such as the Great Barrier Reef and Kakadu National Park; if this means overriding so-called 'states rights' then so be it; this is far too great an issue to be abandoned to bickering over what amount to merely local interests, regardless of politics and 'the Constitution';

(c) to establish and resource stable science-based programs to develop renewable energy technologies, thereby creating employment opportunities in clean-tech industries; and

(d) to halt the mining and export of uranium and to terminate all projects to develop nuclear energy regardless of any short-term and patently short-sighted economic arguments in support. This is one area where it is vital to resist the blandishments of economists and business interests; let China get its uranium from elsewhere if it must.

Sincerely

Bruce McLeod
Carindale, QLD.