

SUBMISSION TO THE GARNAUT REVIEW BY FAMILIES FACING CLIMATE CHANGE: RESPONSE TO PAPER 3-CLIMATE CHANGE AND EMISSIONS STABILIZATION

As outlined in paper 3, global CO₂ emissions need to peak and start to fall by 2015.

Clearly this means that Australia must set a short term target as soon as possible-preferably by the end of 2008- and the target needs to be of the order of a 30% decrease in CO₂ from 1990 levels by 2015.

Given that the majority of Australia's CO₂ emissions come from coal fired electricity generation, improvements in energy efficiency followed by moving to low emission technology is of paramount importance.

The CSIRO has shown that improvements in energy efficiency alone will give a 20% reduction in CO₂ levels.

As nuclear energy and carbon capture technologies will take in excess of 15 years to be developed on a large scale the focus must be on solar and wind energy generation. Looking to Germany, where a feed-in-tariff has seen solar power generation become a major source of electricity provides us with an obvious solution. A feed-in-tariff must be mandated to 60cents per kwh ; be paid on the entire output of a system via gross production metering ; be guaranteed for at least 15yrs and indexed to inflation. This would see a decentralization of the grid and reduce the demand on power at peak times. Further investment in large scale solar plants as planned for Mildura in Victoria would enable the closure of coal fired power plants. The use of on site solar power and improved efficiency would enable energy intensive industries such as aluminium smelters to dramatically reduce their CO₂ emissions.

The use of wind power is also emission free and has the advantage of being a known and safe technology. Two turbines are being installed at Daylesford in Victoria and will provide enough energy to supply in excess of 200 homes in the area. This is a viable solution for many country towns and again reduces the demand on base load power as it decentralizes the grid. It also provides local employment and income for land owners such as farmers who have renewable technologies on their land.

Families Facing Climate Change sees the positive solutions provided by solar and wind technologies and feel that there would be widespread community acceptance and uptake of these alternate energy sources. We speak as a group of concerned families whose only interest is the wellbeing of the planet for this and future generations and ask that clear and decisive action is taken by the end of 2008.