

Professor Ross Garnaut
Garnaut Climate Change Review

17 April 2008

Dear Professor Garnaut

Emissions Trading and related matters

Please note that this submission from our local community based climate action group covers not only the emissions trading issue, but also the more general review and we hope it is not too late for you to take the wider submission into account.

Climate Action Tomaree calls on your review to recommend firm commitments to greenhouse gas emissions reductions including short term targets, and an emissions trading scheme with no free permits for existing high emission industries.

We urge you to resist determined lobbying by vested interests in 'business as usual' or in weak measures that will not be effective in dealing with the very serious challenge of climate change. Unless existing high emission industries have to bear a fair share of the cost, an emissions trading scheme will fail to send the price signals that will change behaviour in the ways which are necessary.

Australia needs to whole-heartedly embrace a low carbon future which will potentially offer even more high quality jobs and economic opportunities than those which will need to be phased out.

Your review should unambiguously recommend no new coal fired power stations be built, and that there be no increase in coal exports, through which we are contributing to damaging and potentially irreversible climate change overseas. To the extent that so-called clean coal technology can make a contribution it will be in the longer term, and it makes economic sense to leave our coal reserves in the ground until then, when they will be more valuable than today.

We also urge you to recommend a more balanced allocation of government subsidies, which currently overwhelmingly support carbon-based energy production and even within the area of research and development unfairly favour carbon capture and storage over genuinely renewable alternatives.

Finally, your report needs to acknowledge that the inevitable increase in energy costs will disproportionately burden low income consumers, who will need to be compensated and/or protected as part of an equitable solution.

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