

Professor Ross Garnaut
Garnaut Climate Change Review
Level 2, 1 Treasury Place
Melbourne VIC 3002

6 March 2008

Dear Professor Garnaut

There is a need for urgent action to address climate change. The scientific evidence on the likely huge adverse impacts of climate change on life on earth, caused largely by human activities, is now incontrovertible.

Australia needs to take a leading role in the world community to tackle climate change. And this starts in our own 'backyard' by substantially reducing our own carbon emissions. Australia is well placed to substantially reduce our carbon emissions. It simply requires the will to do so. And it shouldn't cost too much. A new report by respected consultants McKinsey & Company has found Australia could reduce emissions to 30 per cent below 1990 levels by 2020, and it would cost Australian families less than \$1 a day. The report also found Australia could reduce its emissions by 60 per cent by 2030 – a full 20 years ahead of the Federal Government's commitment of a 60 per cent cut by 2050.

Your report needs to set out both a solid policy framework and the need for a substantial investment by the Government and the community in new infrastructure. A coordinated approach is also needed on the part of the federal and state governments.


I therefore strongly urge you, in your final report, to:

- (a) ensure that the Government recognises the need for urgent change to address climate change;
- (b) encourage the Government to take a leading role in the world community in urgently addressing climate change;
- (c) encourage the Government to take urgent action to reduce Australia's carbon emissions by 30 per cent (not 20 per cent) by 2020 and by 60 per cent by 2030;
- (d) provide strong incentives for Australian businesses and households to reduce their carbon emissions, not just through a carbon trading scheme (or carbon tax), which will help to redress current anomalies in the pricing of carbon, but also through such things as:

- financial incentives to speed up the introduction of 'green' technology (such as solar or wind technology) and changes to improve the thermal efficiency of buildings;
 - the early introduction of stricter vehicle emission standards on new motor vehicles and the removal of current incentives for people to purchase large four-wheel drive vehicles; and
- (e) encourage the federal and state governments to recognise the need for them to play a much more active role in this area, for example by:
- making substantial improvements in public transport (including rail transport);
 - improving the design of our cities so as to reduce carbon emissions; and
 - fostering research into ways of reducing carbon emissions from existing electricity generating technology.

Australia may not be a large country in economic terms. But we can make a real difference and play a leading role in this area. We should do so.

Yours sincerely



John McWilliam