

To- Bernie Fraser, Chair, Climate Change Authority

From- Barbara J. Fraser, PhD.

Re- Submission to **Renewable Energy Target Review**

Date- 1/9/12

Thank you for inviting submissions. My three main points follow.

### **20 per cent by 2020**

"At least 20 per cent of Australia's electrical supply should come from renewable resources by 2020." (**RET Review**, p. 12). In view of the International Energy Agency's crucial 2011 statement that world carbon emissions must peak by 2017 and then decline, Australia's target is not large or fast enough to be effective in avoiding dangerous climate change and to help influence other nations to do likewise. The target must be, not just "should be", much stronger. Science based writing states that Australia's energy could be 100% renewable based in a decade- see, for example, Anna Rose, **Madlands**, 2012, ( p. 234). So, by 2020, our nation could and must be well on the way to achieving that.

### **The environment as first principle**

The **RET Review** (p.6) lists eight principles to which measures relating to climate change must accord. The first of these states that measures must be "economically efficient" and the second states that they must be "environmentally effective". But it is essential to list the environment first as, in reality, it is the basis and condition for all else, including the economy. This is a subtle point but nevertheless important as so often the economy gets top priority when that is so incorrect.

### **Government subsidies on fossil fuels**

The **Review** does not raise the highly relevant topic of the Australian federal government's subsidies on fossil fuels. Why is that? It is important to stop these valuable subsidies on fossil fuels in order that renewable energy development is "on a level playing field" with them. The money thus saved can then assist with funding the renewables which are vital in achieving effective climate action.