

**I wish to request that the Climate Change Authority recommend that Australia's renewable energy target of 20% by 2020, be increased.**

**1. Climate change is having a clear impact around the world sooner than scientists expected.**

Australia has a **responsibility** to join the **global effort** to reduce CO2 emissions as **quickly** as it is reasonably possible to do so.

**2. Australia should be one of the largest producers of renewable energy because we have the required resources of sunshine and wind.**

A very big **boost to investment in renewable energies is needed** if we are to reduce CO2 emissions quickly enough to reduce the impact of what climate change has in store for us in 20 and 30 years time.

With the greatly increased electricity generation from water, wind and solar power in 2010-2011, only increasing the total of Australia's renewable energy generation by 0.9 in one year, it is obvious that something more must be done to increase the amount that can be generated. Much **more renewable energy capacity is needed**.

*"The contribution of renewable energy (in Australia) rose to 9.6 per cent of the total electricity produced during -- (the 2010-2011 financial year), up from 8.7 per cent the year before."*

*"Many of Australia's key hydro catchments experienced the best rainfall in years --, and additional generation from new wind power lifted the renewable energy generation total higher than in previous years. Household solar power still contributes a modest proportion of Australia's renewable energy,-" Clean Energy Australia Report 2011.*

Investment in renewable energy is increasing but it is still not enough.

*"In Australia more than \$5.2 billion was invested in renewable energy during the 2010-11 financial year, including approximately \$4 billion on household solar power alone. This is more than 60 per cent higher than during 2009-10." Clean Energy Australia Report 2011.*

Huge support from government for the oil and gas industries continues, while **renewable energies are not receiving anything like the same financial support**. The Clean Energy Finance Corporation alone will not provide enough assistance. Energy generation from oil and gas needs to be reduced now. This can only be done if generation from renewables is increased.

There's a rush to gas and coal seam gas as the new energy source, but burning gas rather than coal is not clean enough to reduce CO2 emissions rapidly enough.

**3. The target of 20% by 2020 needs to be increased, to provide certainty in the power generation sector and to force power generators to take more action.**

The generation sector is dragging their heels because they think that before 2020 they have enough time to apply enough pressure to have the target reduced. Their profits and shareholders are of primary importance to them, so they are not making the required investments to be able to change to renewables. In fact, they don't want to change.

There should be targets at **2 year intervals** rather than at 10 years, to encourage the electricity generators to do more of what's required.

#### **4. State governments are not acting to reduce their emissions from the electricity generation sector.**

In fact, the trend in some states has become **to hamper the development of renewable energy**. State governments have cut back solar feed in tariff payments and are not providing the generous subsidies to renewable energy projects that they are to coal - (50 million promised from the Vic. government for the HRL project (gasification of brown coal)).

In Victoria the state government used legislation to almost **finish off further investment in wind** power (the 2km rule). Also, it has cut the solar power feed in tariff, so that now those who feed power back into the electricity grid, will be providing almost free power to their power retailer, rather than receiving reward for their own investment.

#### **5, Fossil fuel power generators have not changed the way they operate. The dirtiest (e.g. Hazelwood) are still operating. None have been closed down.**

The companies that generate electricity **have demonstrated their reluctance** to provide clean energy. Unless it is legislated for them to do so, we will not achieve a targeted amount of renewable energy.

#### **6, Electricity generation is the source of emissions that is most readily able to be reduced in Australia and is the single source that produces so much of our emissions.**

However, it requires legislation. Australia so far has done nothing to curb emissions from **transport**. Progress in the **energy efficiency** of buildings and in manufacturing is slow. **Free carbon permits** are being given to some emission intensive industries.

#### **7, Concentrated solar thermal power stations, using molten salt, have been proven to supply base load electricity 24 hours a day continuously. We have every reason to be making power generators build these power stations to replace coal and gas fired power stations. By going straight to concentrated solar thermal power, we save wasting time and money with gas fired power.**

This is no longer experimental technology.

The source of the electricity (sunshine) is free and never ending.

These power stations are not polluting of the environment,

The initial finance needed is not much more than is required for fossil fuel generated power stations. The life of the power station is not limited by reduced fuel source.

#### **8, The carbon price and funding from the clean Energy Finance Corporation, together will not be enough to provide the required renewable energy capacity.**

Yours Faithfully,  
Marion Cook