

To- Climate Change Authority
From- Barbara J. Fraser, PhD. (Education & Social Sciences)
Re- Submission re **Australia's climate policy options**
Date- 17/2/16

1. Introduction

Your draft document is focused on the two critical issues of reducing carbon emissions and increasing renewables. However, as your document's title is broader than that, I want to list other relevant problems which must also be solved:

endless economic and population growth,

more land clearing and development,

closure of old coal-fired power stations,

stopping new fossil fuel mining,

corruption of democracy by the political power of fossil fuel based interests,

the necessity for multi political party agreement on fundamentally important problems.

It is recognised that these are radical reforms but justified under the present dangerous circumstances as the following quote makes startlingly clear. "The carbon budget of 20 per cent of fossil-fuel reserves which can be consumed to have a 66 per cent of staying below 2 degrees, reduces to zero if the probability of success is increased to 90 per cent, in itself not good odds for the survival of much of humanity." (Dunlop, 2015) Surely all humans want the 90-100 per cent guarantee, don't you?

2. The necessity for Australia to rapidly reduce our extremely high carbon emissions.

Unfortunately the present Coalition government's Direct Action policy cannot be raised to the necessary level for cutting emissions sufficiently to fulfill the 1.5 or even 2.0 temperature limit agreed under the recent Paris agreement. Moreover, it must be the polluters not Australian taxpayers who pay for their pollution. Also, our reduction targets are not nearly high enough to help with the current international endeavour. The urgency for effective action now is highlighted by Klein's quote, "The International Energy Agency warns that if we do not get our emissions under control by a rather terrifying 2017, our fossil fuel economy will "lock-in" extremely dangerous warming." (Klein, 2015)

3. A market method is recommended for achieving the rapid reductions but via a carbon fee or levy not a trading scheme.

Top climate scientist James Hansen urges a carbon penalty levied at the source of the mines and at the point of export. "Emission trading won't work, but my global 'carbon fee' will." So "The world should put a price on fossil fuels as we dig them out of the ground, not when we burn them." (Hansen, 3/12/15)

4. Rapid development of renewables and decline of fossil fuels in Australia's economy.

Australian renewables, especially solar and wind, offer an excellent future as industries for energy and jobs here, and for exports. Obviously, fossil fuel subsidies must end. Our Chief Scientist Alan Finkel recently urged Australia to 'accelerate the switch from coal to renewable energy.' (Finkel, 3/2/16)

5. References

Dunlop, Ian, "Rational climate and energy policy", *The Conversation*, December 13, 2015

Finkel, Alan, "Chief scientist off to energetic start", *The Age*, 3/2/16

Hansen, James, *The Conversation*, 3/12/ 15

Klein, Naomi, *This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs the climate*, US, Simon & Schuster, 2014