

The Kingsford Smith Report

A COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER FROM PETER GARRETT – FEDERAL MEMBER FOR KINGSFORD SMITH ■ AUTUMN 2011

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Dangerous climate change *is real*

Labor is taking action on **climate change** to build a clean energy future.

Global warming is happening – 2010 was the equal warmest year on record and the 34th consecutive year with above average global temperatures.

In Australia, 2001-10 was the warmest decade on record and the sixth in a row warmer than the previous one.

The consensus among climate scientists is that Australia is already being directly affected by global warming.

Climate change will increasingly affect our environment with rising sea levels and sea surface temperatures, changes to rainfall distribution and water availability, and more severe weather events.

The Great Barrier Reef, our largest World Heritage Area, with huge environmental, cultural and economic significance to Australians, is threatened by increasing water temperatures, rising sea levels and ocean acidification. Some 200,000 people are directly dependent on a healthy Reef which generates around \$4 billion for our economy.

Businesses need certainty so they can get on with making plans for the future.

If Australia doesn't act now, we risk being left behind the rest of the world.

What our plan means

A carbon price is simply a price on pollution, in this case on less than 1,000 companies which produce the most greenhouse pollution. It is the cheapest and fairest way to cut pollution and build

a clean energy economy. It is the right and necessary thing to do.

The best way to stop businesses polluting and get them to invest in clean energy is to charge them when they pollute.

We will start with a fixed price for three to five years before moving to an emissions trading scheme.

The Government will then use every cent raised to:

- Assist families with household bills,
- Help businesses make the transition to a clean energy economy, and
- Tackle climate change and invest in a clean energy future.

We understand that electricity prices are increasing, and the pressure that this places on households.

These continuing price rises are mainly caused by past under-investment in our network infrastructure, the 850,000 kilometres of poles and wires which deliver electricity across Australia.

A price on carbon pollution will provide certainty to investors, allowing them to make the most efficient investments in our energy sector.

Without a price on carbon:

- Investment will remain stalled in our energy sector,
- Prices will rise even further due to this lack of investment, and
- No compensation will be available to households.



Note from your Federal MP

As your Federal MP, I believe that addressing dangerous climate change is the single most important issue we face.

Remember there will be opportunities to increase employment as we move to a low pollution economy especially as we ramp up our renewable energy.

www.climateinstitute.org.au/clean-energy-jobs

Remember the Liberal Party, under former leaders John Howard and Malcolm Turnbull, was willing to support a price on carbon pollution through a greenhouse gas emissions trading scheme.

If we don't act now it will cost us more in the future and our kids will be left to pick up the bill to address dangerous climate change.

Peter Garrett

Consultation

The Multi-Party Climate Change Committee is continuing discussion on the carbon price proposal and the Government continues to consult with stakeholders.

If you want input into this consultation email MPCCC@climatechange.gov.au, or write to MPCCC, GPO Box 854, Canberra ACT 2601

Think global **and act local**

You and your family can make a difference – at home, at work, at school

At home

- When replacing household appliances such as a fridge, buy an appliance with a high energy efficiency rating – this is the most efficient way to reduce energy use in your house and importantly saves money on energy bills. www.energyrating.gov.au
- Start a compost heap or a worm farm.
- Send old or unused electronic equipment, including mobile phones, to an electronic waste recycler. Check recyclingnearyou.com.au or your council's website.
- Purchase compact fluorescent lamp (CFL) bulbs that use less energy and last 10-20 times longer than a standard incandescent light bulb.
- Reuse plastic containers as storage containers.
- Save money and waste by purchasing rechargeable batteries.

At school

BECOME AN AuSSI* SCHOOL.

AuSSI schools have reported:

- reductions in waste collection of up to 80%,
- reductions in water consumption of up to 60%, and
- savings on energy consumption of 20%.
- www.environment.gov.au/education/aussi

*Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative

Randwick Council

Randwick City Council residents know their council has a great track record of providing services to encourage energy efficiency and waste minimisation. The Council encourages residents to observe the waste hierarchy:

- aim to avoid waste
- reuse what you can't avoid
- recycle where possible
- dispose of what's left

www.randwick.nsw.gov.au

At work

- Reuse old supplies and equipment, or consider donating or selling them to schools, thrift stores, etc
- When not using your work computer for extended periods of time, turn it off or put it in sleep mode to save energy.
- Install low-energy lighting.
- Buy green power for the office.
- Print double-sided and reuse scrap paper as notepads.



“ It's always terrific to visit Kingsford Smith schools, including **Claremont College** and **Banksmeadow Public School**, which have implemented effective sustainability programs. ”

The world is taking *action* on climate change

The world is moving towards a clean energy future. The Australian Government is determined to put a price on pollution because this is the cheapest and fairest way to move to a clean energy economy.

Australia has the highest emissions of carbon pollution per person of any developed country, higher even than the US, and is one of the top 20 polluting nations in the world (ranked 16).

If we don't move to cut pollution, we risk getting left behind in a global economy moving to clean energy.

What are other countries doing?

Even without a new global agreement, the rest of the world is moving. Countries are taking action based on their own national interest and circumstances. Thirty-two countries and ten US states already have emissions trading schemes.

Other countries, including China, Taiwan, Chile and South Korea and a number of Canadian provinces, are either considering developing their own or already have trial emissions trading schemes in place.

A number of other developed countries have carbon taxes and some developing countries are also introducing them.

Which countries have a carbon tax?

Carbon taxes are in place in the UK, Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden, the Netherlands and Canada and under discussion elsewhere, including the EU, Japan and South Africa.

Which countries have emissions trading schemes?

Emissions trading schemes already operate in 31 European countries, including the UK, France, Germany and Italy. New Zealand also has one. China, Taiwan, Chile, South Korea and several Canadian provinces are also considering emissions trading schemes.

The US, China and India

In November 2010, China's chief climate negotiator said a domestic emissions trading mechanism will be in place within five years.

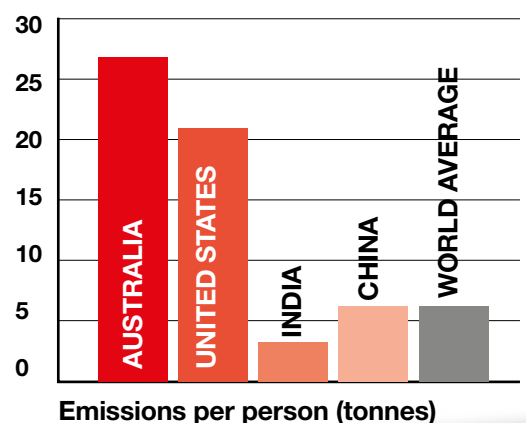
China also has a tax on coal, oil and gas extraction in its largest gas-producing province and plans to extend this to all other western provinces.

China is shutting down environmentally damaging and inefficient small coal fired electricity generators at the rate of one every one or two weeks. At the same time they are installing the equivalent of one new wind turbine every hour.

In his State of the Union address, President Obama committed the US to having 80% of its electricity coming from clean energy by 2035.

India charges a clean energy tax on all coal used and produced with the revenue being invested in clean energy technologies.

Australia's emissions in context



In March this year, energy from wind farms in Spain generated 21% of the nation's power demand. Source: Red Eléctrica de España

A price on carbon to tackle climate change






A carbon price will cut pollution, drive investment in a clean energy future and provide business with certainty.

It is the right and necessary thing to do

MYTHS

-  It will drive up electricity prices.
-  It will increase petrol prices.
-  The ATO will send me a carbon tax bill when I pollute, as this is just another tax on households.
-  It is simply revenue raising.
-  Tony Abbott's Direct Action policy will be cheaper and less of a burden on households.
-  It will wreck the economy and lead to job cuts.
-  Australia is going it alone.
-  Australia isn't a big polluter – we shouldn't have to pay.
-  The world is cooling down so we don't need to act.

FACTS

-  Electricity prices have risen over 40% in the last 3 years without a carbon price in place. These rises are largely due to a significant past under-investment in our electricity networks and uncertainty over a carbon price.
-  The final carbon price scheme is still to be settled. The impact on petrol prices is simply not known and is speculation.
-  This is not a tax on households. Only industry will have to pay for their pollution. We expect some of these costs will be passed on but the Government will provide assistance to households to help with these costs.
-  Every cent raised will go towards assisting households, helping businesses transition and tackling climate change.
-  Tony Abbott's Direct Action policy will cost taxpayers over \$30 billion and the average family will be \$720 worse off. Taxpayers rather than polluters pay and households don't receive any assistance.
-  A carbon price will put the signals in place to drive new investment and create thousands of new jobs in a clean energy economy.
-  The global economy is shifting towards clean energy. 32 countries and 10 US states already have emissions trading schemes in operation, and many more are being planned.
-  Australia has the highest emissions per person of any developed country – more than the US – and is the 16th largest polluter.
-  The world is warming. Last year was the equal warmest year and the last decade was the warmest decade on record. Climate scientists are telling us pollution is causing climate change.