

28 Nov. 2013

## Individual submission on the Climate Change Authority Target and Progress Review Draft Report

A lay person and grandparent, I thank the Authority for the detailed information made available on their website first in the issues paper and now in the draft report – and for the opportunity to make this submission.

I wish to commend the Authority on the present draft, which I see as vitally important.

It presents, in 246 pages, a thorough treatment of the technicalities involved in tackling the climate emergency, an understanding of which must put politicians and their constituents in a good position to make informed decisions.

It details the progress already being made domestically and internationally in response to the emergency.

It provides pointers to the issues confronting world leaders as they engage in ongoing negotiations towards agreeing on collective action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. There is also most welcome news of positive information-sharing developments essential to the success of such negotiations.

And it informs the Australian public on factors having a bearing on the adoption of appropriate measures to reduce emissions in a timely manner without prejudicing the health of the national economy.

For reasons of which the Authority would be only too well aware, it is essential that the Australian government works together with other governments to confront the emergency in whatever way they can. Here the further development by the Authority of Garnaut's 2008 work on contraction and convergence is interesting. The concept is developed in the Draft Report in such a way that its implementation seems entirely feasible and desirable in the interests of international cooperation and the ultimate success of measures adopted to reduce global emissions.

With regard to the proposed domestic emissions reduction task for 2013 to 2020 of 593 Mt of CO<sub>2</sub>-e we are made aware of the fact that the corresponding global emissions reduction is associated with only a 67 per cent probability of limiting average global warming to 2 degrees (Draft p. 40). All that can be said in favour of this is that it gives the planet a chance of staying below 2 degrees above stable pre-industrial revolution temperatures of slightly better than 50-50. Witnessing the signs of distress in terms of melting glaciers and polar ice caps and more frequent, more severe windstorms, floods, droughts and fires being experienced today, at less than 1 degree of global warming, it is clear that we have already put too much greenhouse gas into the atmosphere.

Thank you again, Climate Change Authority, and may your efforts be not in vain.

John Gare