

Short submission to the Climate Change Authority by Kate Holmes.

To be honest, I am thoroughly disappointed with Australia's efforts in addressing the issue of climate change. I am tired of making well researched submissions to the ongoing stream of bureaucratic diversionary talk chambers set up by a succession of governments who have lacked the will or the power to take strong action on climate change. We require legislation to bring industry and business related emissions down. We require legislation which makes it more economical to purchase Australian made and owned goods, rather than shipping products around the globe at great cost to our planet.

So here it is in a nutshell. Hopefully we'll see some government action equal to our individual energetic inputs towards emissions reductions and a climate safe future.

My family wants stronger action on climate change that will actually afford some protection to Australia's health and prosperity. Our views have been reaffirmed by many Australians through polls and research - including ABC's Vote Compass that showed that 61% of Australians believe the government should do more to tackle climate change.

We cannot afford to wait any longer before strong action on climate change is taken by the government. The actions of individuals in tackling this problem must be backed by strong governance, directing business to reduce emissions also.

Emissions must be reduced to zero by 2030 at the latest. The Climate Authority should make this explicit in its recommendations to the Australian Government.

I recommend that the CCA adopt a 25% emission reduction target (on 1990 levels) by 2016 as a minimum short-term target. It is clear that the risks of a +2 degree world for Australia are significant, putting Australians, our natural environment and key industries, like agriculture, at risk. We cannot rely on food imports when our own climate systems fail to eventuate as previously – this is a global issue. Many other continents also experience unusual weather patterns which damage their food crops at the same time that we do.

Once again the IPCC has made it clear - the world is warming rapidly, humans are the primary cause, and very substantial action is immediately required.

The latest IPCC report found that the already hotter climate experienced as a result of present human induced climate change, is already increasing the frequency and severity of many extreme weather events, and is changing rainfall patterns, creating risks for human well being, the global economy and the environment.

Take action now. Put the carbon tax back in place - not a carbon trading system, but a tax. Legislate for 25% reduction in 1990 level emissions by 2016 and zero emissions by 2030!