

Mr Phil Barresi
Federal Member for Deakin
Unit 5, 602 Whitehorse Road
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5th June 07

Dear Mr Barresi,

As an enrolled voter within the electorate of Deakin, I have received your progress reports regularly, and as we draw closer to the federal election I feel I must respond.

I have a major issue with the Coalition's approach to the serious issue of climate change. I do not believe your government is doing enough internationally, nationally or locally. This is no longer just an "environmental" issue; it is about the economy, security and our way of living. Neither is this a Left issue, as we see conservative governments around the world taking significant action.

At the international level Australia should ratify Kyoto and immediately engage to ensure we are part of a global carbon trading scheme. This will become a marketplace not to be missed due to lack of preparedness.

Nationally we should legislate for a 30% reduction (of 1990 level) in carbon emissions by 2020. The elected government must set both this short term cap, then tighten it again for 2050. Mr Howard's current position of no targets is negligent and dangerous. Malcolm Turnbull's reference¹ to the carbon trading report's recommendation for an "aspirational target to be set next year" flies in the face of scientific targets already set. We can achieve these cuts by stopping the protectionist subsidies given to the fossil fuel industry, and supporting renewables.

We are so rich in solar, tidal, geo-thermal and wind energy it is an economic anachronism to stay with old, polluting energy sources. Fossil fuelled energy supply has been for the benefit of the few who have capitalized on non-costed pollution. This will continue as a lost opportunity for renewable energy providers, now ready to go main stream under the right regulatory framework. Again, Mr Turnbull says *targets, such as Labor proposes, have the potential to drive our energy intensive industries offshore* – but this is exactly what the lack of targets is doing to the renewables industry; we are losing our best

¹ *The Age* (Opinion) Tues June 5, 07

renewables technologies to overseas markets. The Howard government is looking backward.

Locally we need better public transport linkages across the rail network. We need affordable distributed solar power – rebates to the consumer only push up the price. Instead rebates could be offered to installers to stimulate higher volume rollout and encourage price decreases to consumers to compete for volume. We need locally grown produce and “village” type community town planning.

The government’s message of a “balanced approach” to Climate Change is not credible in a situation of great imbalance; vast per capita emissions, vast fossil fuel subsidies, vast consequences for Australia environmentally, economically and socially.

Furthermore, it is not taking a “balanced” approach to request most if not all of your policy advice from fossil fuel-vested interests.

I want a government that will put the framework in place right now, to enable and manage the change, not hinder it and make the inevitable ultimately more difficult, by protecting the old industries.

We need a government that will deliver us from the devastation that independent science has told us that without swift, significant change, is inevitable. The Stern report and others since have confirmed the economic cost of not doing enough will greatly outweigh the negligible cost of swift action. In my opinion, the Coalition is not doing enough.

Please consider my submission; I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

Georgia Blomberg

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