



The Hon Bob Baldwin MP

Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for the Environment

MC15-010646

Mr Malcolm Roberts
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- 1 JUN 2015

Dear Mr Roberts

MALCOLM

I refer to your letter of 27 February 2015 to myself and the Assistant Minister for Education and Training and previous Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for the Environment, Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham, concerning the science of climate change.

I note your attached report, and also note that you forwarded your report on 4 March 2015 to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Hon Julie Bishop MP.

The Australian Government accepts the science of climate change and takes its primary advice on climate science from and CSIRO the Bureau of Meteorology. This advice aligns with information provided by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and national and international organisations such as the Australian Academy of Science, World Meteorological Organization, the Royal Society in the United Kingdom, and the National Academy of Sciences, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in the United States of America.

These world-leading scientific organisations have found that the Earth's climate is changing and that humans are primarily responsible. This finding is informed by long term observations of air temperatures, the heat content of the ocean, and changes to glaciers, ice sheets and sea ice.

While the Government supports national and global efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, we believe that there is a better way to reduce emissions than by imposing taxes or emissions trading systems that increase energy costs for businesses and households. That is why the Government has repealed the carbon tax and replaced it with the Emissions Reduction Fund.

By removing the carbon tax, the Government has also eliminated an administrative and compliance burden on business. Approximately 75,000 businesses directly paid the carbon tax or paid an equivalent carbon tax through levies such as the fuel excise. Australian businesses were spending millions of dollars every year to comply with the carbon tax.

The Government is firmly committed to reducing Australia's emissions to meet its target of five per cent below 2000 levels by 2020. Positive and direct action by the Government, business and community will allow us to meet this challenge. For environmental policy to be successful over the longer term, the two goals of reducing emissions and ensuring economic growth must be

pursued together. The Government's approach is built on science and the need to develop global efforts to reduce emissions.

The centrepiece of the Government's approach is the Emissions Reduction Fund (ERF), which embodies the principles of lowest-cost, real emissions reductions, and streamlined administration. The ERF will provide the impetus for businesses and the community to improve practices, invest in new technologies, and reduce our emissions. Further information about the ERF is available on the Department of the Environment website at: www.environment.gov.au.

Thank you for writing on this matter.

Yours sincerely



Bob Baldwin