



CONFERENCE OF LEADERS OF RELIGIOUS INSTITUTES IN NEW SOUTH WALES CLRI (NSW)

ABN: 52 476 362 010
Member of Catholic Church Religious Group

Senator Penny Wong
Minister for Climate Change and Water
The Senate
Parliament House
Canberra
ACT 2600

Dear Senator Wong,

I write on behalf of the NSW Justice Committee of the Conference of Leaders of Religious Institutes CLRI(NSW). CLRI(NSW) represents approximately 3,500 members and their associates in NSW. The Justice Committee is responsible for research, resourcing, reflection, advocacy and action in the areas of justice, peace, the environment and human rights.

The members of CLRI(NSW) have some concerns in regard to the white paper on Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme and the recently released draft legislation. We recognize that these are difficult economic times and there will be pressures from industry and the mining sector to reduce the emissions cap, expand "free" permits and delay the implementation of the carbon pollution reduction scheme. However, the impact of global warming waits for no one and as each day passes we are made more aware of the harm being done to our environment by fossil fuels, over-consumption of energy and greenhouse gases in general.

CLRI(NSW) regards the emissions cap of 5% at minimum and 15% at maximum, if there is global agreement, to be too low. Professor Garnaut recommended a 25% reduction in emissions by 2020 if we were to have any impact on global warming. You suggested, in a recent speech, that it was better to have something rather than nothing but this is, we believe, open to question. CLRI(NSW) supports the lifting of 15% cap on emissions to 25% by 2020. In addition to this Australia should be actively contributing to the efforts of developing countries to reduce their emissions.

The pressures of the coal industry and energy providers must be resisted and there should be no "free" permits for polluters. The greater the scope given to them the more pressure there will be on the rest of the community to reduce emissions.

Despite the recent funding for insulation the draft legislation does not give sufficient support to renewable energies and energy efficiency. It is essential that more funding be given to the research and development of alternative energy sources and that no longer do experts in solar energy and other energy sources leave our shores for the USA, Germany and other countries.

CLRI(NSW) strongly supports the Senate Inquiry and we applaud the government for holding firm to the 2010 date for introducing the carbon pollution reduction scheme.

With best wishes for your efforts and for Copenhagen in the future.

Yours sincerely,

Libby Rogerson *ibvm*
for CLRI(NSW)
13 March 2009

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