

Political Guts

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Thursday, 2nd October 2008

Mr Peter Garrett
Ms Penny Wong
CC: Prime Minister Kevin Rudd
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Mr Garrett and Ms Wong,

To say that Australia has some incredibly challenging issues to face in the areas of Energy and The Environment is probably an understatement. Throw in some Climate Change issues, Greenhouse Gases, Pollution, Bio-Diversity, Salination, Murray River Basin issues and between you, the task is difficult. The fact that many of the problems either originate overseas OR are greatly affected by global factors does not make it easier, and I pledge my support to you, in an effort to make the differences that the planet needs if we are to make it through in a state that could be described as satisfactory.

However, there are a plethora of opinions, many conflicting, and vary many centred on narrow issues. Few people really see the bigger picture, the crucial perspective that is needed. To support you in making your way through the morass, I have made some suggestions on my website www.politicalguts.com that I would really love you to have a look at. There is a section with nine topics pages, all about Energy and The Environment, and with many specific suggestions and recommendations, based on solid research.

I have selected a few and made a précis of them below. I ask you to consider them, and how they can be included into a big picture plan for Australia. When I wrote these pages, I created such a big picture plan which, if adopted in its entirety, could make the changes that would resolve so many of our national environmental issues we face as a nation.

I will be canvassing these ideas elsewhere throughout the country over the near future. I do hope you can act on my concepts and suggestions. I look forward to your responses.

Sincerely

Ray Jamieson
Author
www.politicalguts.com

Concepts and suggestions from www.politicalguts.com :

Energy and the Environment page: <http://www.politicalguts.com/id6.html>

1. Carbon Dioxide reduction targets of from 10% to 25% have been suggested by Professor Garnaut, but a 70% Pollution (including CO₂) reduction is possible within a decade by replacing coal fired power stations with a combination of alternative electric energy and power sources. These coal fired power stations are responsible for at least this much of our pollution. Geothermal, wave and wind power, and further into the decade of 2020, with hydroelectric power from small power stations along the headwaters of the rivers in Northern NSW and Qld (which could partly power pumps sending excess flood water inland to supplement the inland river system) are all viable now, and becoming much more cost effective as time passes.
2. Invest heavily in alternative energy and power generation in Australia. Rather than just a tax deduction or means tested grant, invest nationally in alternative power generation and in enabling households to generate their own power needs. Get houses off the national power grid where possible, to free up the supply for the increasing demand from industry.
3. Get serious about soil and water conservation, by applying resources to proven solutions such as **The Keyline Plan** and **Natural Sequence Farming**, and listen to **The Wentworth Group of Scientists**. These people DO have the knowledge we need to tackle the issues facing the soil and water conservation issues of Australia.
4. Get serious on Feral Animal and noxious weeds control, and allow and encourage farmers and graziers to take a more active role in these areas, instead of limiting their ability to manage their land and resources and these pests.
5. Apply genuine resources to pollution control in Australia, in every area. Rather than the focus on the ETS, dealing with the pollution and emissions of industry and motor vehicles is more likely to have a positive effect on the level of CO₂ than penalising Australia with an expensive ETS!
6. Publish the truth about Global warming - this is, that it ceased almost a decade ago and the average temperatures since then have been cooling. Then, reconcile this with the CO₂ argument and the ETS and explain why the evidence suggests that the ETS is more than likely going to make commodity traders rich and businesses, consumers and manufacturers poor, but little effect on CO₂ production will be experienced.
7. Publish the true facts around climate change, in that although the global temperatures have cooled, there are other forces at work causing changes in areas of rainfall distribution, ocean currents and thawing ice packs, weather patterns and that we may have little chance of undoing those changes.
8. Outlaw non-biodegradable plastic shopping bags within twelve months and enforce the introduction of fully biodegradable plastic shopping bags immediately. This technology exists now; it has been available for a decade.
9. Provide genuine incentives for car owners to switch to hybrid or alternative powered vehicles, to make them price competitive to purchase, compared with regular petrol engined vehicles.

10. Publish the truth about the unreality of carbon sequestration in the “capture and bury carbon” model, and focus instead on using agriculture and forestry to do it for us, within the Australian profit making industries that produce food and shelter for the population of the world. We can make a genuine dollar profit from carbon sequestration, whilst employing our population and feeding and sheltering the world by increasing our agricultural and forestry productive capacity, as opposed to spending billions of scarce Aussie dollars trying to bury a problem in a way that is only going to cause another, and have no flow-on benefits to the planet or the populations. Reference Tim Flannery’s recent quarterly essay “Now or Never”. Implement Biological Carbon Sequestration strategies immediately.
11. Abandon the ETS, as the evidence is growing that the target of the ETS is not the real culprit, and the economic flow-on effects would be disastrous for Australia.
12. Further investigate the work already being done into eliminating methane emissions from ruminants, enabling greatly increased grazing livestock production without increased methane, and provide greenhouse neutral meat production.
13. Immediately use the available existing water to flush the Coorongs, as much as possible, with the Murray Darling water we now have in that river system. In the longer term, divert up to 5% of the river flows of the coastal rivers that flood annually, to supplement inland river flows and produce localised hydro-electric power at those points.
14. Implement the Transaction Tax reform as suggested on my website <http://www.politicalguts.com/id5.html> so that the funding is available for all these initiatives, and the internal savings enable the economy to flourish while the reforms are implemented.
15. Review the Energy and the Environment section and pages of the Political Guts website at <http://www.politicalguts.com/id6.html> and begin to seriously and holistically implement the environmental solutions suggested.