

From: De Ruyter
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Subject: Submission

*Submission *

To the Standing Committee on Climate Change, Environment and Water's Inquiry into ACT Greenhouse Reduction Targets

/From: /
Mr Gerard De Ruyter
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Dear Secretary,

I urge the Committee to recommend the strongest possible action on reducing greenhouse emissions in the ACT, and urge you to place long term survival of the environment as we largely know it above the shorter term economic 'needs' of the ACT. I believe a quite radical shift in reducing our individual carbon footprints if we are to limit the degree of adaption that will be forced on us should we seek to maintain the status quo and seek to find an illusory 'balance' between reductions and maintaining a growth-based economy. That equation won't work for this situation, as we have let too much time pass before real action has been taken. Real action has not in fact yet been taken, in the ACT, Australia or anywhere else - requiring, as stated above - much more drastic action than previously needed.

As a result, we need to:

- * have ACT emissions *peak by no later than 2010*;
- * have a reduction in emissions of at least *10% by 2012*; and
- * have a reduction in emissions of at least *50% by 2020*.

You all have read the latest science on the subject. I should have to say no more than this. I realise that drastic change is scary for all, especially elected officials. I know that growth-based economic policy has served us well to this point. However, sadly, having ignored the fact of a finite planet means we have come to the end of the line for this model. Steady-state is now required, at best.

I plead with you to do what must be done. Mandate the above and be done. Let us adapt - we can if we have to. We just need the strong and quite radical leadership to catalyse it.

Yours sincerely,

Gerard De Ruyter