

From: matthew.ms.frawley
Sent: Friday, 27 February 2009 4:45 PM
To: Committees
Cc: scallywags
Subject: Inquiry into ACT Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets

Please accept my submission into this worthy and very timely inquiry.

I make this submission as a resident of Canberra who was born here and is greatly concerned for the environment in the ACT, in particular, and the rest of the planet more broadly. I acknowledge that we live on Ngunnawal country and I pay my respects to their elders, past and present. I believe that they lived on this land for thousands of years and yet sadly, in the very short time since Europeans took over their land, we have made many terrible and irreversible mistakes. It is in this spirit that I make my submission and in the hope that we can make better decisions in the future.

My suggestion is addressed in relation to the following point in the Standing Committee Reference:

(2) (c) (i) the efficacy of existing programsand the need for additional programs....

I would like to suggest that you consider adopting a system that could allow the ACT government to engage the community in reducing their individual pollution with minimal cost. I offer this suggestion as just one component of reducing pollution and I offer it in good faith, in the hope that such a system will appeal to the good-will of the concerned residents of the ACT that are prepared to make individual adjustments to their way of life because they are concerned about the issue of global warming.

My suggestion is that the ACT Government provide a simple system for any ACT household to calculate their total pollution for the day, week, month, year - with the goal that it will encourage awareness of each individual or families' contribution to the meeting of reduction targets. It would enable households to see where they can make adjustments to their lifestyle and gives them the satisfaction of knowing that they are making a difference. I think a similar but much simpler system has been used by the government with regards to reduction of water use by the flashing signs on the roadsides that show the target each day and how much we have collectively used that day. It inspires, educates and encourages people to do more and that we are all in this together and that all our contributions make a difference.

This system could be delivered via the ACT Government website, so that it would be easy for a household to input their electricity usage, distance travelled in the car and so on. It could be accompanied with suggestions on how to make reductions i.e. more fuel-efficient or hybrid-powered cars, insulation and other energy efficiency measures in the household, electrical appliance ratings etc. It would allow people to share their experiences with each other. People could show what their pollution level is and how they got to that level so that others can also try the same things.

I hope you are able to consider my suggestion and that the ACT Government ultimately adopts pollution reduction measures that protects our climate and leads the way for the rest of Australia and the world.

Kind regards

Matthew Frawley

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