

F.A.O Minister Penny Wong

Dear Minister,

I refer you to the report resolving climate change attached and at www.waterright.com.au/resolving_climate_change.pdf. This argues that the future growth in green houses gases will come from the developing countries who will soon dominate global emissions; China is already the world largest emitter. It outlines a plan where Australia can help developing countries stabilize their emissions while still growing their economies and reducing poverty.

It is based on the Australian developed wicking bed technology already in wide use in Australia. I have negotiated with the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Science for them to research how this could be applied to China and particularly to provide the scientific verification required for carbon trading. They need \$500,000 to undertake this research and I am asking the Australian Government to provide this funding to the Academy. Adoption in China, as a lead country, would result in rapid adoption in other developing countries.

The justifications for this expenditure are simple.

- 1) Carbon is global; the impact of climate change on Australia is largely the result of overseas emissions. \$500,000 to help developing countries curb their emissions is insignificant in comparison with the costs we are already experiencing from climate change, drought, floods and bush fires. It is a good investment.
- 2) It would be by far the most cost effective way for the Australian Government to reduce global emissions. This \$500,000 helping China would have far more impact in reducing emission than the much larger sums we are already investing within Australia.
- 3) The essential, fully international, global agreement on climate change is highly unlikely unless the needs of the developing countries are satisfied. Enabling developing countries to sequester carbon removes this block and makes agreement more achievable.
- 4) Australia's prosperity is largely based on its energy exports of coal and gas. We have moral and self interest obligations to help reduce the impact.
- 5) It would develop a significant supply of carbon offsets which would help protect our energy industry from future controls.
- 6) Before the last election many people felt ashamed of Australia's stance on climate change and voted for Kevin Rudd's to get action on climate change. These people felt let down when climate change was relegated to the too hard basket. Action now, to support this Chinese project, would help restore the Government's image on climate change, both overseas and with the electorate.

These reasons justify the investment base on self interest; above all it is the right thing to do.

Colin Austin