



simon birmingham

Liberal Senator for South Australia

25 February 2013

Mr Malcolm Roberts
180 Haven Road
PULLENVALE QLD 4069

Dear Mr Roberts

Thank you for your letter of 4 February and enclosed review documents regarding climate science and climate action policies.

As I am sure you are aware, the Coalition has made repealing the carbon tax our first order of business in government. In the meantime, please rest assured we will continue to take every opportunity to fight Labor's carbon tax and highlight its failings and resulting harm.

Julia Gillard's backflip on her 'no carbon tax' election promise of 2010 was not only a massive breach of trust with the Australian people but also, by Labor's own admission, bad policy. Labor actually agrees with the Coalition that a carbon tax is not the best way to tackle the stated threats of climate change – even Penny Wong as Climate Change Minister said "A carbon tax does not guarantee emissions reductions."

As you will also be aware, including from past correspondence, the Coalition is committed to responsible action on climate change. Unlike Labor, the Coalition has a clear policy that provides incentives to abate carbon and meet Australia's emissions reduction targets in the most efficient way possible, by targeting change where change can occur and, importantly, not through increases in electricity prices. You can read more about our Direct Action Plan at <http://liberal.org.au/issues/environment>.

While our Direct Action Plan policy measures would reduce Australia's carbon footprint, I also hope that those who question or reject out-of-hand the notion of human-induced warming would nevertheless be supportive of direct actions with demonstrable 'win win' benefits, for example to soil quality and agricultural production.

The debate on matters of science is, I believe, one best left for scientists, not politicians, although I welcome those such as yourself who take the time to follow the issues closely. The views of most engaged in the climate science debate have been vigorously challenged by others with climate science expertise. Many argue their research is as conclusive as others would suggest that contrary research is.

More detailed Coalition policies, including as they relate to the Renewable Energy Target, will of course be released in advance of the coming election.

I hope this information is of some assistance to you, and thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Simon Birmingham', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Simon Birmingham
Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for the Environment