An Open Letter to All Members of Parliament  
From the Carbon Sense Coalition  
23 June 2009

Soon our elected representatives will be asked to vote on Senator Wong’s Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme.

This scheme is not about carbon or pollution. Its main effect is to provide for a cap on the human production of carbon dioxide, a colourless harmless natural gas. Carbon dioxide is no more a pollutant than oxygen or water, the other two atmospheric gases on which all life on earth relies.

The bill will also levy a tax on whatever carbon dioxide is produced, and levy an excess production tax on anyone whose production exceeds the legal cap. It is a carbon dioxide Cap-n-Tax Bill.

There is no human activity whatsoever that does not generate carbon dioxide. Therefore any attempt to measure, cap and tax human production of carbon dioxide must eventually extend to every human activity (the UK government already floated the idea that every person be issued with a personal carbon ration card).

This is a very serious proposal, with wide-ranging implications for all aspects of economic life and personal freedoms. It could only be justified if there was a clear and urgent danger that additional human production of carbon dioxide is highly likely to cause dangerous global warming. There is no evidence that this is the case – just computer models and scare forecasts.

Neither the scientific questions, nor the cost benefit analysis has been subject to any critical independent analysis.

The diagram below illustrates the sequence of decisions that should be made before this bill gets assent. If the answer to ANY ONE of the boxed questions is “NO”, there is no justification for Australia rushing ahead with its Cap-n-Tax Bill.

This diagram, although light-hearted, has a factual basis and conveys some very serious messages.

It is highly unlikely that anyone could honestly answer “Yes” to every question, which is what is required to justify passage of the bill. This suggests that there is a high likelihood that the bill will have NO CLIMATE EFFECT WHATSOEVER and thus a costly exercise in self delusion.

Our strong recommendation is that all Parliaments reject all Cap-n-Tax Bills.

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The Cap-n-Tax Maze

- **YES**
  - Is CO2 the main cause of warming?
    - **YES**
      - Is there an unusual amount of CO2 in the atmosphere?
        - **YES**
          - Is it still getting warmer?
            - **YES**
              - Is the world unusually warm?
                - **YES**
                  - **START**
                - **NO**
                  - **NO**
              - **NO**
              - **NO**
            - **NO**
            - **NO**
          - **NO**
        - **NO**
      - **NO**
    - **NO**
  - **NO**
  - Is man mainly responsible for higher CO2?
    - **YES**
      - Will doing nothing cause a warming crisis?
        - **YES**
          - Will Cap-n-Tax reduce warming?
            - **YES**
              - **NO**
            - **NO**
          - **NO**
        - **NO**
      - **NO**
    - **NO**
  - **Reject the Bill**