GetUp submission to Senate Enquiry on CPRS

The CPRS is not a document that the world can look to and say this is what we need to do. It will be pilloried at Copenhagen as being the weak sop to the coal industry that it is. The whole thrust of any CPR scheme must surely be the reduction of reliance on fossil fuels and set out a strategy for the phasing out of coal within a generation and other fossil fuels some time after that. Other polluting industries such as aluminium production need to be protected in the interim, because eventually they can be powered by renewable energy sources of which there are many options. We can't pretend there is "clean coal" technology, because of the simple fact that pure carbon (coal) when burnt with oxygen produces pure carbon dioxide. 12 kg of coal produces 44 kg of CO2. This is an indivisible law of nature. Collecting and storing CO2 will be immensely costly and certainly less cost efficient than technologies which produce electricity from wind, ocean wave, geothermal or sun.

Please Penny Wong and fellow government ministers, engineer a CPRS that will do the job it is supposed to do. Stand strong when the coal industry put the frighteners on you. The Australian people are becoming better informed about the real issues and can see the through the bluff of the coal industry. If Xstrata says they will pull the plug on investments in NSW because of the costs of the CPRS and say it will cost jobs, then don't be fooled. It is a victory for your scheme, because isn't this what we should be doing. It is all bluff anyway. They will invest in these ventures because they can still make profits with the present CPRS. They can be encouraged to invest in renewable technologies.

Please produce a CPRS which we can demonstrate to the world that this is how to fight global warming not the present toothless coal industry friendly script that citizens groups and environmentalists had no input into.

Dan Caffrey