

## WHO IS BEHIND THIS FLYER?

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I've taken it upon myself to promote action on climate change in my community. Thousands more like me are doing the same across the nation, and the efforts are being coordinated by a coalition of civil society, environmental and community groups. Want to know more? Visit [www.sayyesaustralia.org.au](http://www.sayyesaustralia.org.au)

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Don't worry, it's not an ad or some sort of pyramid scheme... and I'm not writing to nag you about the rubbish bins.  
I don't usually do this but I'm dropping this note to neighbours to talk about an important issue that affects all of us. I hope you don't mind, and that you'll take a moment to read it.  
Thanks,

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WHY DID I DROP THIS IN  
YOUR LETTERBOX?

Dear neighbour,

I live just down the street. This isn't something I would normally do, but today I'm putting this in your letterbox because I felt I really needed to do something about an issue that affects our country.

Like me, you're probably sick of politicians and talking heads arguing on TV and radio about whether Australia should put a price on carbon pollution. It seems that with the political games going on, we've lost sight of the bigger picture: why we need to tackle climate change in the first place.

Why should we care? Because not only does Australia produce more carbon pollution per person than any other country in the world, we will also be one of the countries hardest hit by climate change. The latest science tells us that heatwaves, bushfires and floods will be even worse than previously thought in the coming decades if we don't do something soon.

In fact, a new independent Commission, made up of leading Australian climate scientists, just found that the next decade is the 'critical decade' to stop devastating climate change before it's too late. The report says that decisions we make now will determine the severity of climate change impacts our children and grandchildren will experience. The longer we wait, the more expensive the solutions will become.

And we're already trailing more than 30 developed countries that have put a price on pollution, including New Zealand, the UK and most of the EU.

The carbon price would only apply to fewer than 1,000 of the biggest polluting companies in Australia – **it is not a tax on you and me**. I think it's time we made them step up to their responsibilities and pay a fair price for their pollution. It means that they won't be allowed to pollute for free any more. Instead, they have to pay a small price per tonne of carbon pollution. This rewards those companies who do things more efficiently, and gives the ones who wouldn't otherwise try to reduce energy an incentive to clean up their act.

Polluters might still try to pass the costs on to us. But revenue from the price will be made available to households to assist with price rises. That way the policy stays focused on changing the behaviour of the biggest polluting companies.

Some of the money raised is also going to be invested in renewable energy like solar, wind and geothermal – creating jobs working on these new technologies. Australia has all those solutions in abundance already – and they won't ever run out. In fact, did you know that enough sun falls on the Earth in an hour to power the whole world's energy needs for 8 years? It's crazy that Australia hasn't done more on this already!

The price on pollution is an urgent first step we need to take towards the transition to a clean energy future our kids can look forward to.

That's why I've taken the time to personally deliver this letter to you. I'm hoping that, neighbour to neighbour, we can get past the vested corporate and political interests that dominate this conversation and instead, finally take a step towards tackling climate change.

I'd love for you to take up this conversation, if you share the same concerns and are fed up with the misinformation. By talking to our neighbours, friends and family we can set the record straight and create a more sustainable and prosperous future for everyone.

Thanks,

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P.S. I know there are a few people still arguing that climate change doesn't exist, but the fact is that 97% of climate scientists working in the field say it's happening, it's caused by humans, and it's already causing us major damage like more extreme weather events and sea level rise. I figure that even if the 3% who claim climate change isn't real end up being right, not following the advice of the 97% who say we need to reduce pollution now is just not worth the risk.

If you want to read more about the science of climate change, I recommend having a look at [www.climatecommission.gov.au](http://www.climatecommission.gov.au), which has information from Australia's leading climate scientists.

P.P.S. This letter is printed on recycled paper using environmentally friendly ink.