

To: Ms. Larissa Waters
Greens Senator for Queensland
August 2010

Dear Larissa,

Once again, congratulations on your brilliant success. Sandra Bayley also performed spectacularly well for a first time candidate. As I am known to you by now as a person (hopefully) of some substance, I now appeal to you to consider the following measures to be integrated into Green Party strategy (many are already part of your platform):

1. Establish a pioneer sustainable community along the lines of the "*Gaia Village project*" (see www.d3sj.org downloads section. Also please read Dr. Richard Mochelle's article on Rurban design principles on the same webpage).

This will not be just another run-of-the-mill "eco-village". The purpose here will be to demonstrate to the general public beyond any shadow of doubt that Australians can live a high quality, high tech modern lifestyle with no significant sacrifice in quality of life while simultaneously ensuring rock-solid water, food and energy security, with a near zero (and eventually even a negative) carbon footprint. It can be done NOW with existing technology! We just lack the political will. It should be done as a partnership between academia (including engineers, infrastructure planners and architects with a proven track record), entrepreneurs and government.

This project is absolutely essential because it will comprehensively sweep away all the arguments of the naysayers who claim that a zero carbon, high quality lifestyle is impossible. The proof of the pudding is in the eating. Quick action could establish such a project within a year. Once all the teething problems are sorted out with this proof-of-concept project, we must legislate that all future residential developments be established along these sustainable lines. This will ensure that new developments will not impose any further demands on an existing infrastructure already stretched to the limit (grid electricity and reticulated water in particular).

Early adopters will be the enlightened well off, who are conscious of the gathering storm we face and are willing to pay a premium to protect themselves, families and friends from the turmoil of a looming "Mad Max" type future (which Professor Peter Newman of Curtin University says is imminent unless we take action now). The existing market for such a project is substantial right now and will inevitably grow with time. Costs will decline with economies of scale and our expertise can also be exported overseas, generating foreign exchange.

2. Embark on vigorous and continuous **science-based public education** regarding the dangers of Peak Oil (most urgent issue) and Climate change (most dangerous threat to civilisation) which must also emphasize the many positive humanistic aspects of our essential transformation to a sustainable community based lifestyle and a steady state economy, FREE OF FOSSIL FUEL ADDICTION. Case in point: the indisputable proof of a working, successful Gaia Village project!

3. Retrofitting existing buildings to reduce their carbon footprint will be a magnitude greater in scale and will require a **price on carbon**.

The main reason the general public are hostile to a price on carbon is because they perceive it will impose added costs with no real benefit for them. That was certainly true of the "cap-and-trade" fiasco which was perverted to suit the agenda of the polluters and the parasitic middlemen. We need to educate the public that unless we embark on a systematic and structured societal transformation, freeing us from fossil fuel addiction, Nature will inevitably impose harsh penalties upon us in the

most horrific manner. The way to facilitate this positive transformation is by establishing a price on carbon: James Hanson's "fee and dividend" model which he advocated to Obama is probably the best one: a fee imposed on the polluters (which will lead to a rise in the cost of coal-fired electricity) with direct compensation to vulnerable (low income) members of the community, eliminating any parasitic middlemen in between. This is similar to Ross Garnaut's recommendation.

We had a GST imposed on us and the sky did not fall down. A carbon price will, certainly initially, be less costly to us than the massive stimulus package for the GFC, much of which represented a waste of taxpayers money. A carbon price, properly utilised, on the other hand will be a highly effective use of taxpayers money.

Emphasize to the public that a carbon price will kickstart the establishment of new sustainable industries leading to jobs, jobs, jobs! Forget about coal mining (which according to Ian Lowe employs fewer people than the Great Barrier Reef related industries). Look towards a coal free future!

4. Part of the carbon price must be used to fund a **gross** (not net) **feed-in tariff** paid to householders for feeding renewable energy into the grid (which will primarily be solar electricity in Queensland). This will facilitate the exponential proliferation of domestic renewable energy sources all across the nation and provide people with tangible personal evidence of their carbon taxes at work.

5. Industries which are an utter waste of fossil fuels and which confer zero benefit such as **the bottled water industry must be banned** (or priced out of the market - eg impose a tax driving the price of one litre of bottled water to \$50, the tax then being used to fund renewable energy). Banning bottled water has already been done in some locations. There is nothing more obscene than using fossil fuels to bottle and transport heavy spring water from France and then dump those plastic bottles in landfill. Promote the merits of tap water and reuse our plastic bottles! As they say, Evian spelt backwards is Naive.

6. The key to preserving our cities in the petroleum depleted future (when the aviation and trucking industries have collapsed and which will occur much sooner than many think), is to establish petroleum independent transportation networks NOW. Natural gas powered citybuses may be an interim measure, but ultimately we will have to properly establish **intracity and intercity rail networks** (the latter which I advocated at a CCNQ meeting chaired by David Hood some months before Bob Brown announced it). These will be initially powered by a combination of coal fired and renewable electricity, and **ultimately powered entirely by renewable electricity**. We need rail lines connecting Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne initially, then later expanded to include Adelaide, Perth and Darwin.

7. Simultaneously with (6) above, we must embark on **large scale renewable electricity projects** NOW. The ultimate goal must be 100% renewable electricity. Nuclear power is completely unnecessary for Australia (although we realise our ongoing obligations to supply uranium to contracted overseas signatories of the NPT). You yourself mentioned at our d3sj meeting that David Mills has proved that large scale solar thermal electricity is affordable and workable. Spain's Andasol solar corporation has constructed massive energy storage vats of molten "salt" (sodium nitrate and potassium nitrate) to ensure baseload renewable electricity supplies at night. More funding for Australian hot rocks projects may be needed to fast track this particular technology which will be ideal for baseload supplies but which will also require high voltage DC long distance power lines. The vast wind resources of the south coast of Australia are easy enough to tap, however large scale energy storage technology (eg compressed air in underground caverns)

must be established.

8. Forget about **carbon capture and storage as promoted by the coal industry**. It is a load of bollocks (pardon my French) and **must be exposed for the outrageous scam it is**. It is on par with the "light tar" cigarette scam perpetrated by the tobacco industry, which caused just as much lung cancer as ordinary cigarettes. Tim Flannery finally came to his senses about the absurd nonsense of CCS a year or so ago, after looking at CCS prospects around the world.

As you can see, the strategies above will lead to a slight downsizing of the Australian coal industry (coal will still be needed for coking and other purposes). The major proportion of coal industry income is derived from exported coal, hence implementing all the above measures nationally will hardly make any dent in their profits. I believe only about 4% of their income is derived from Australian coal fired electricity (personal communication with Mark McNee, engineer, at previous d3sj meeting). Thus we can preempt any cries of abject poverty from those jet setting coal executives as being ridiculous crocodile tears. The resources of Australia belong to ALL Australians and are NOT the personal property of the rapacious mining executives, no matter how large the size of their egos nor how monstrous their sense of entitlement. In the long run however, if the coal industry knows what is good for them, they should transform themselves from coal companies into renewable energy companies, just as many petroleum companies are now trying to do. The only way for human civilisation to survive is for the coal industry to fade away: to either die or to transform themselves. From the ashes of the "short term greed" coal industry will arise a multitude of sustainable industries to nurture all future generations.

It will be impossible to turn the public away from an existing comfortable lifestyle based on coal fired electricity unless you can first show them a viable and better alternative, as well as convince them that "business as usual" will lead to complete disaster. The coal industry, with their vast funding for media disinformation, will fight tooth and nail to insist that we cannot do without their power. Only the physical proof of a working, successful, renewable energy powered "Gaia Village Project" will be able to overturn all their lies. The "Gaia Village Project" has to be the first step to achieving all subsequent goals and we know there is an existing guaranteed market for it.

Please forward this to all your Green Party colleagues for consideration. Promote your image as the party of vision, the party of the future, the party for ALL Australians (not just serving corporate interests), the party of hard science, the party of hard economics, the party of soft compassion and the only party with any sort of credibility now that both major parties have shown themselves to be utterly useless (and in the case of the Coalition - who invaded Iraq and who still demonise refugees - downright malevolent).

Looking forward to your positive response,

Geoffrey Chia,
Cardiologist, Brisbane

cc Dr. Sandra Bayley, Greens, Ryan electorate
cc Dr. Bob Brown