



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Climate Change – A “do nothing” option is not an option

The risks associated with climate change given the weight of scientific evidence are too great for the Government and the Australian community to do nothing in terms of reducing emissions according to the Independent Member for New England Tony Windsor.

Mr Windsor is currently formulating a Climate Protection Bill that would broaden the Climate Change debate to embrace opportunities for agriculture, forestry, renewable fuels and energy sources.

He believes that if the evidence available is correct in terms of polar meltdown and changed climatic conditions inland New South Wales will be one of the areas that suffers from the predicted changes.

“The easy option for the current generation of politicians is to do nothing and adopt a Clayton’s strategy.

As a Member of Parliament, I would rather err on the side of doing something meaningful than look back in 50 years and wonder why nothing was done domestically or globally to address the problem,” Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor was part of the 2020 Summit – Climate Change Forum where Professor Garnaut was also a participant.

“I’m pleased Professor Garnaut has picked up on the potential for certain farming and grazing systems to increase natural carbon storage as humus and organic matter.

Although these natural processes aren’t part of the Government’s current carbon reduction strategy, they may well be part of a future solution,” Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor’s Climate Protection Bill will address a suite of renewable energy options, most of which have been ignored over the past decade.

“The Howard Government for example put in place renewable energy targets in 2000.

Eight years later there is less renewable energy produced than before the targets were initiated.

As well, most of our solar, wind, tidal and geothermal scientists have left to work in other countries.

Let’s get serious about climate change and in doing so embrace the opportunities that addressing its impact can create,” Mr Windsor said.

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