

To the Climate Change Authority

I absolutely despair at Australia's inaction on climate change. I went to my first climate change conference in 1990, at which scientist Anne Henderson-Sellers said that climate change is like waiting for a bus to come, you know it will, just aren't sure when. Mitigation then would have been much cheaper, and imbedded in our economy. Here we are, 23 years later, and still we do nothing but sit and watch weather events intensify.

The bus has now arrived - the people of the Philippines know it has arrived, the bushfire victims in Victoria know it has arrived, and the people of Queensland, that have endured unprecedented flooding 3 out of the past 4 years, know it has arrived.

I want a planet for my children and grandchildren that is liveable, and productive. Climate change is not a green issue, it is an economic and social one. If we do little now, the costs in future will cripple our economy.

It is a sad irony indeed that Australia (embarrassingly) did not send a leader to the Warsaw talks - because it was too busy undoing its climate change action. Please set ambitious targets on climate action - our island nation has a lot to lose if we don't.

Sincerely,

Leslie Shirreffs