

19Th February 2016

NZ ETS Review Consultation,
Ministry for the Environment,
PO Box 10362, Wellington 6143

Email: nzetsreview@mfe.govt.nz

Dear Sir, madam,

Name: Ross Clark

Email: [REDACTED]

A government is bound to protect its citizens – present and future. This Government has failed to do so in its ETS scheme. The film “Hot Air – the politics of NZ Climate Change” exposes the way vested interests have influenced and effectively neutralised the scheme – and has anything changed?

The Government’s public consultation on climate change in 2015 received a huge response supporting taking stronger action on reducing emissions. The Government ignored this public response and NZ was subsequently shamed on the world stage at Paris.

My knowledge of the detailed workings of the ETS are limited as no doubt are most Joe Citizens – but I am aware that the scheme has no incentive on emitters to make the changes to reduce their emissions. The main emitters are excluded and/or have a ‘one for one free’ exclusion. Thus the taxpayers will pay instead. Cheap and fraudulent emissions have been purchased from overseas. Land use has been distorted with the cheap units purchased encouraging the change from forestry to dairying, with huge external cost implications on the environment, let alone to our emissions increase.

I believe that a carbon tax is the most effective way as an incentive to encourage a change to a lower emissions. Failing that, the ETS has to be amended to achieve similar results – the Government is negligent if it fails to do so.

I have kept my comments to the subject of the ETS – which obviously implies that NZ has to, and can, do its fair share to this global issue. In fact there is potential gain for NZ to lead which our Government is ignoring - but that is another topic

I will not be presenting my submission in person.