



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MOTIONS

Climate Change

SPEECH

Tuesday, 28 May 2013

BY AUTHORITY OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SPEECH

Date Tuesday, 28 May 2013
Page 4001
Questioner
Speaker Abbott, Tony, MP

Source House
Proof No
Responder
Question No.

Mr ABBOTT (Warringah—Leader of the Opposition) (14:28): I do welcome the opportunity to briefly put on record the coalition's position in this area. We accept the science that says that something is happening to our planet. We accept that—we always have, we always will.

Government members interjecting—

The SPEAKER: Order! I gave a warning not more than five seconds ago!

Mr ABBOTT: The question is not whether or not our climate is impacted by human activity—clearly there is a human impact on our climate. The question is: how is it best dealt with? The government believes that it should be dealt with with a great big new tax; the coalition believes that it should be dealt with by direct action measures—more trees, better soils, smarter technology. That will actually reduce our domestic emissions by five per cent by 2020. That is the big difference. Our Direct Action policy will actually reduce domestic emissions by five per cent; the government's will not. Under the government's policy, despite a carbon tax—a crippling carbon tax—forecast by the government's own modelling to reach \$37 a tonne by 2020, Australia's domestic emissions do not decrease; they increase from 578 million tonnes to 621 million tonnes.

I welcome this opportunity which the Leader of the House, in his genius—in his tactical brilliance—has given me to point out just what the government's policy is doing. It is clobbering our economy and it is increasing emissions. What genius from members opposite! They only achieve their five per cent reduction by purchasing some 100 million tonnes from the foreign carbon traders. That is what they are doing. It is a \$3½ billion gift to the foreign carbon traders—\$3½ billion that the consumers of Australia will pay because of this government's policies. The choice is clear: you can have good environmental protection under the coalition or you can have a great big new tax and a worse environment under the government.

Opposition members interjecting—

Mr Laming: More, more!

The SPEAKER: The member for Bowman will leave the chamber under 94(a). That behaviour is not acceptable in this chamber.

The member for Bowman then left the chamber.

Mr ABBOTT: Madam Speaker, I am happy to take further questions in this chamber.

The SPEAKER: The Leader of the Opposition will resume his seat! Can I actually ask people, genuinely, to maybe once in a while read a standing order. It would be highly entertaining for anybody to understand what is actually in those standing orders.