

The Hon. Josh Frydenberg, MP
Minister for the Environment and Energy
Parliament House Office
M1: 17, Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

Berlin, 08.09.2016

Dear Minister,

In an [interview on the ABC](#) on September 5 and a story in The [Australian on the same day](#), you made the statement that our recent Climate Transparency report "Brown to Green" contained factual errors. Quoting The Australian:

"First, it says that Australia has an ETS which we don't, second it says that coal is a greater proportion of our overall energy mix than it is, and third it says that we are a laggard when it comes to public climate finance when we've been co-chairing the green climate fund and one of the top ten contributors in the world, ..."

As authors of the Climate Transparency report we disagree with your statement. Climate Transparency brings together a wide group of organisations who assess G20 Government climate action. We rely on publicly available data and strive to provide comprehensive, comparable and credible information.

Our report contains the following description for Australia for the category emissions trading scheme:

"Following the abolishment of the Australian Carbon Pricing Mechanism in 2014, Australia has introduced a "Safeguard Mechanism" that came into force in 2016, to limit and price emissions. The mechanism is a baseline and credit ETS that covers 50% of the country emissions and under which businesses that produce over 100,000 tonnes of GHG emissions each year have their emissions capped."

We categorise this as falling under the definition of an emissions trading system, which may not be the definition you use, but, to us, given the precise information we have received about the nature of the scheme, it warrants this classification.

As to the share of coal in Australia's overall energy mix we write:

"Since 2006, the share has been decreasing and is now down to 37%".



As stated in our report, the data comes from the International Energy Agency and refers to 2012. It remains close to the 35% reported by Australian Energy Statistics by the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science.

You correctly stated that Australia is one of the tenth biggest contributors to the Green Climate Fund, a statement we did not dispute. We simply pointed out that both in absolute terms and in relative share of GDP, Australia's contribution to the GCF is lower than that of the United Kingdom, France, Japan, Germany, the United States, Italy and Canada, ie, all other G20 countries with an obligation to pledge to the GCF. We also pointed out that Australia has chaired the Green Climate Fund.

We are happy to present and discuss with you our results in more detail. As you mentioned in your interview changes in the targets will be necessary as part of the on-going review process agreed at Paris. We believe that our G20 report and its yearly updates will be helpful input for this task.

Yours sincerely

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