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Climate change has become a major issue in Australia due to drastic changes in recent years. In certain regions rainfall has increased, and in other there is little or none, particularly in the Northeast and Southwest. These changes have had a major impact on how the population live their lives, water sources have depleted meaning that population increase has become a bigger issue and droughts are not uncommon. Australia today, has the highest per capita greenhouse gas in the world.

Coal and natural gas are Australia's primary source of energy usage, along with oil based products. Australian carbon tax is aimed directly at its main emitters with a view to invest in and improve technology and reduce carbon emissions. This has been implemented via the individual taxpayer as part of the governments controversial Clean Energy Plan.

Both the Howard Coalition government and the Rudd Labour opposition planned to create and implement a trading scheme for regulating carbon emissions before the 2007 federal election. Shortly after, the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme was born, put in place to regulate emissions trading for anthropogenic greenhouse gases. The law acted as part of the government's climate change policy which changed Australia's energy policy for the better. Energy and electricity production, consumption, exportation and importation is now regulated under fiscal influence

However, It seems many Australians do not agree that carbon tax is a worthwhile initiative to reduce an impact on the environment, according to a recent reward survey. 44% of 271 over 60's asked do not think the initiative is worthwhile whilst only 13% disagree, stating that they strongly agree with the value it holds to Australian economy. Only 12% of 304 41- 50 year olds asked strongly agree with them whilst 41% do not think the scheme has a positive impact on the environment. Younger generations however, seem to have a slightly opposing view. 21% of 31- 40 year olds state that they agree with the statement "Carbon tax, is a worthwhile initiative to reduce the impact on the environment", 16% of under 21's agree and 17% of 22- 30 year olds also agree, whilst 30% of under 21's stated that they feel "neutral" about this statement.

42% of male's state that the most important part of caring for the environment is preserving it for future generations, 41% of women asked, agree. However only 2% of men asked said that by means of taxation is the best way for them to participate, and 4% of women agree.

However, measures have been taken to soften the impact of these price rises with regards to everyday products. The tax free threshold will rise which will exempt many more people from paying income tax and people who earn less than $80, 000 per year will receive a generous tax cut depending on their income. Pensioners and self-funded retirees will see their welfare payments increase meaning that millions of households, particularly low income households will be better off.

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Bruce Giles a reward surveywrites for a digital marketing agency. This article has been commissioned by a client of said agency. This article is not designed to promote, but should be considered professional content.

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