

news

Climate economist says he was gagged

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A SENIOR CSIRO environmental economist has gone public to accuse the science body of trying to gag his report attacking the Federal Government's climate change policies

The paper, by Clive Spash, criticises the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme and argues that direct legislation or a tax on carbon is needed, *The Australian* newspaper reports.

Dr Spash also wrote that the economic theory underpinning emissions trading schemes was far removed from the reality of permit markets.

He said trading schemes were ineffective because of the difficulty of measuring emissions, and because placing a price on carbon affected all prices in the economy, with highly unpredictable consequences.

He claims the CSIRO had tried to block the publication of the report, despite it being internationally peer reviewed and accepted by the journal *New Political Economy*.

The CSIRO said it was an internal matter and was currently being reviewed.