

# FINANCIAL TIMES

## Political realities will undermine energy pricing

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*From Prof Roger Pielke, Jr.*

Sir, Kevin Parker's assertion ("[Carbon emitters' free ride is about to end](#)", July 17) that an increase in the price of carbon on the European market to €100 a tonne looks "inevitable" neglects the political realities of energy pricing.

### **IN Letters**

Consider the speed with which the UK government caved into calls to postpone implementation of the already overdue 2p rise in the fuel duty. Similarly, the German finance ministry last week announced that due to the already high costs of energy, "further measures to achieve climate goals should be considered only with great caution". These political realities – which seem common around the world – call into question any approach to climate policy that starts with the expectation that policymakers will see fit to impose higher energy prices on a public demanding the opposite.

One apparently unlearned lesson from the history of progress on environmental policies is that technological innovation enables political progress more often than the other way round. Until this lesson is learned on climate policy, efforts to institute meaningful carbon prices, in Europe or elsewhere, are doomed to fail.

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