

5 May, 2009

## Joint Statement to Prime Minister Kevin Rudd about the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme amendments

Dear Prime Minister,

We, the undersigned, are dismayed and alarmed by the Australian Government's move to further weaken an already inadequate Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme. Our serious reservations about the original scheme have not been addressed and we cannot in good conscience support amendments which make further concessions to the carbon pollution lobby.

The new 2020 emissions reduction target is disingenuous and still too low.

- The only target to which the Australian Government has committed is an unacceptable 5% emissions reduction that will guarantee catastrophic climate change.
- The maximum 25% target is one that, if applied globally, would lead to at least 2 degrees warming and the loss of the Great Barrier Reef.
- Further the conditions attached to the maximum target, coming from the world's largest per capita greenhouse polluter, seriously undermine Australia's credibility in claiming to support a strong global agreement on climate change.

The only real winner from the amendments is the carbon pollution lobby, which will receive more free permits and a very low maximum carbon price of \$10/tonne. The amendments failed to address the fundamental flaws of the scheme, including that:

- Unlimited trading of permits on the international market means that all emissions reductions can be outsourced to other countries.
- Individuals that voluntarily reduce emissions face personal costs to ensure their efforts do not free up permits for polluters.

It is too late for token efforts that will not avert dangerous climate change. Now is the time both to ensure a safe climate future and provide a renewable energy-powered stimulus to the Australian economy. At a time of economic and climate crisis, clean energy jobs provide a strong and sensible way forward.

We call on the Australian Government to send the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme back to the drawing board, and urgently deliver a real strategy to reduce emissions and create green jobs.

Signed:

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