



# Climate Protection Bill

## Overview

(Revised and re-endorsed, June 25 2008)

**Climate Action Community Groups around Australia recommend:**

### **Greenhouse Gas Reductions**

1. That Australian greenhouse gas emissions are reduced to 50% below the 1990 emission levels by 2020, and 100% by 2040.

### **Actions to Achieve Greenhouse Gas Reductions**

2. That the Government adopt a national strategy for greenhouse gas emission reductions to meet the targets (see 1). This strategy will be developed through public consultation. This strategy must address the tax deductions and subsidies provided to greenhouse intensive activities and industries.
3. That Government funding for research and development into demand side management, energy efficiency and renewable energy is increased to achieve the targets (see 1).
4. That a national energy efficiency scheme is implemented.
5. That subsidies and tax breaks that support and encourage fossil fuel use are removed, and this funding is instead invested in renewable energy research and development.
6. That the percentage of Australia's energy being sourced from renewable energy sources is substantially increased (see 15).
7. That all Government agencies purchase electricity with 100% renewable energy accredited under the National Green Power Accreditation Program.

8. That, in addition to the Federal Emissions Trading System, a carbon tax be considered to achieve the emission reduction targets (see 1).
9. That new coal-fired power stations and new coal mines are prohibited, and plans to expand existing coal mines and other actions likely to result in the emissions of large amounts of greenhouse gases are thoroughly assessed for their greenhouse contribution through a 'greenhouse trigger' in environmental law (see 14).
10. That the construction or expansion of a nuclear power reactor is prohibited.
11. That logging in old growth forests is prohibited.

## **Greenhouse Reporting**

12. That the Prime Minister annually and publicly report on Australia's greenhouse gas emissions and the progress of a national strategy for reducing emissions. This report must include greenhouse gas emissions likely to result from the use of fossil fuels exported from Australia.
13. That the Government carry out a 'greenhouse impact statement' before any Act, regulation or statutory instrument is made, and report on this process annually.

## **Changing Environmental Law**

14. *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*  
That the Government amend the main Commonwealth environmental protection law to include a 'greenhouse trigger'. This law, the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999, should ensure that projects having an adverse impact on the climate system are assessed and approved by the Commonwealth Government. Projects to be assessed include the expansion of an existing coal mine, and a change in land use or land clearing which results in emissions of more than 125,000 tonnes of greenhouse gases. New coal mines will be prohibited. The construction or expansion of a nuclear reactor will be prohibited under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act. Logging of old growth forests will also be prohibited under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act.
15. *Renewable Energy (Electricity) Act 2000*  
That the law setting a mandatory target for renewable energy use is improved. This law, the Renewable Energy (Electricity) Act 2000, should allow the renewable energy target to continue indefinitely. By 2010, electricity generators must source an additional 10% of electricity each year from renewable sources. This will increase to 50% by 2020. By 2050, 100% of electricity consumed in Australia must be sourced from eligible renewable sources.

## Moving to a Clean Energy Future

16. That a 'Just Transitions' Committee be established to plan for an equitable and fair transition for employees and communities affected by Australia's commitment to a comprehensive greenhouse reduction program.

*This is only an **overview** of the Climate Protection Bill. The complete legal draft is available at [www.climatemovement.org.au/ClimateProtectionBill](http://www.climatemovement.org.au/ClimateProtectionBill) .*

*The Climate Protection Bill was written in consultation with 30 community-based climate groups. The Bill has subsequently been endorsed by over 65 climate action groups, representing approximately 6,000 Australians. It has also been endorsed by 1,000 individuals. For more details, see [www.climatemovement.org.au/ClimateProtectionBill](http://www.climatemovement.org.au/ClimateProtectionBill).*