



Climate Action Network Australia

Member organisations respond to the proposed CPRS changes

May 2009

On May 4, 2009, the Rudd Government announced that the proposed Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS) would be delayed until 2011, that the price of carbon will be set at \$10 per tonne for the first year of the scheme, and that the range of its emissions reduction target will be reduced by only 5% of 2000 levels by 2020 unless agreement is struck at Copenhagen this year to pursue a 25% target. This higher target would be adopted if major developing economies slow the growth and then reduce their emissions, advanced economies take on reductions and commitments comparable to Australia, and access is provided to the full range of international abatement opportunities through a broad and functioning international market in carbon credits.

Despite the potentially positive decision to increase the ceiling target of the CPRS to 25%, the Climate Action Network Australia maintains its concerns about this proposed scheme, including:

- The later start date delays taking action on emission reduction for another year.
- A significant increase of assistance to Emissions-Intensive, Trade-Exposed industries allows polluters to continue to pollute and does not incentivise them to cut their greenhouse emissions.
- The set price of \$10/t C is too low.
- The Government is ignoring its responsibility to finance mitigation and adaptation within developing countries, which must happen on top of its own targets and current aid commitments.

CANA's 67 member organisations have differing opinions on this announcement. The comments below are drawn from respective media releases.

Concerned responses:

Friends of the Earth: "The government's new target announcement will not mean further cuts to Australia's greenhouse pollution as all it does is raise from 15% to 25% the hypothetical target that Australia might take to Copenhagen. It is still contingent on the outcome of any global agreement and still able to be achieved by outsource overseas through carbon credits."

Rising Tide: "The government will decrease the price cap on carbon permits to \$10 per tonne – so low it will hardly be noticed. And they will hand out even more free permits to heavily polluting industries. This is no Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme – it is a Business-As-Usual Scheme, and it has the fingerprints of the aluminium and coal industries all over it. The time for cutting greenhouse pollution was yesterday. Runaway climate change is approaching. We simply cannot put off cutting greenhouse pollution if we want to keep a habitable climate on this planet."

65 community-based Climate Action Groups: “Groups strongly oppose the new 2020 emissions reduction target band of 5-25% below 2000 levels, stressing the need for targets based on the best available climate science, which calls for reductions of at least 40 – 50% by developed countries by 2020 ... Groups stressed that these targets also remain out of step with the unconditional targets agreed to by other developed nations (the UK, US and EU have agreed to cut emissions by 34-46%, 20% and 20-30% from 1990 levels respectively).”

Conservation Council of South Australia: “Delaying action by effectively another two years, capping the cost of carbon at a tiny \$10/tonne and giving polluters even more compensation than was planned under the previously flawed CPRS design means we are slowing and weakening our response to the most urgent problem the world has ever faced.”

Uniting Church: “The global economic crisis is not an excuse to back away from proceeding with positive, constructive climate change policies. As the Uniting Church has been saying for years, the future costs to our community, caused by delayed action, will be far greater than the cost of implementing a sound emissions trading scheme now.”

Positive responses:

Southern Cross Climate Coalition (ACF, The Climate Institute, ACOSS and ACTU) with WWF: “This commitment unleashes Australia’s negotiating effort on the difficult challenge of getting the commitments from developed and major developing countries necessary to achieve an agreement to stabilise greenhouse gas levels at 450 ppm or lower in Copenhagen later this year.”

The Climate Institute: “The Government’s amended Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS) sends immediate signals the risks of future investments in high-polluting assets; is better targeted at a global agreement and increases transparency for transitional assistance ... This reform package is worthy of support because it focuses our minds on the real prize - an effective global climate agreement. It also provides greater transparency for the transitional assistance and sends an immediate signal to investors about risks of high-polluting investments and potential benefits of investing in low-carbon, jobs and industries.”

Oxfam Australia: “The Federal Government is taking a step in the right direction by committing to reduce Australia’s carbon pollution by 25 per cent below 2000 levels if the world agrees to an ambitious climate deal ... However, as one of the world’s highest per capita polluters, the Government should not delay the start of the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS)”.

World Vision: “While the increased emissions reduction target from 5 to 25 per cent of 2000 levels by 2020 is a positive step in the right direction, the 5 per cent unconditional target is still far too low. We should commit to reducing our emissions by as close as possible to 40 per cent below 1990 levels, by 2020. A strong global deal is essential to prevent a global humanitarian, economic and security catastrophe. “

TEAR Australia: “TEAR Australia welcomes the decision of the Government to increase the maximum carbon pollution reduction from 15% to 25% as an important first step ... [However] the base target of a 5% reduction needs to be significantly increased as does the upper end of the Government’s proposed emissions target. TEAR Australia supports a global reduction in greenhouse gases by developed nations of 40% by 2020 in order to keep warming below 2 Degrees Celsius.”

About the Climate Action Network Australia

Climate Action Network Australia (CANA) is the peak non-government body working on climate change in Australia, and works as an alliance of 65 non-government organisations concerned about global warming from diverse sectors. These member organisations represent the faith, community, development and environmental movements, as well as the research community. CANA, in turn, belongs to the global Climate Action Network (CAN) which has representative groups in more than 80 nations, in every continent.

As the first comprehensive non-government voice on climate change in Australia, CANA has been working since 1998 to increase the understanding of climate change, and to encourage governments, businesses and individuals to undertake actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and their climate change impacts. For further information, visit www.cana.net.au. CANA's member organisations include:

Environment and Climate Organisations (international)

- [Climate Action Network - Global](#)
- [Friends of the Earth](#)
- [Greenpeace Australia Pacific](#)
- [The Pew Charitable Trusts](#)
- [WWF - Australia](#)

Environment Organisations (national)

- [Australian Conservation Foundation](#)
- [Australian Marine Conservation Society](#)
- [Australian Student Environment Network](#)
- [The Climate Institute](#) (Assoc. Member)
- [The Wilderness Society](#)

Environment, Human Rights and Youth Organisations

- [The Australia Institute](#)
- [Australian Youth Climate Coalition](#)
- [GetUp!](#)
- [Mineral Policy Institute](#)

Aid and Development Organisations

- [Aidwatch](#)
- [Caritas Australia](#)
- [Jubilee Australia](#)
- [Oxfam Australia](#)
- [Tear Australia](#)
- [World Vision Australia](#)

Faith-based Organisations

- [Australian Religious Response to Climate Change](#)
- [Catholic Earthcare Australia](#)
- [Edmund Rice Centre](#)
- [Sisters of the Good Samaritan](#)
- [Sisters of Mercy - Earth Link](#)
- [Social Action Office](#)
- [Uniting Church, The Justice and International Mission](#)
- [UnitingJustice Australia](#)

Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organisations

- [Australian & New Zealand Solar Energy Society](#)
- [Moreland Energy Foundation](#)
- [Urban Ecology Australia](#)

Legal and Research Organisations

- Climate change research cluster, School of Health and Social Development, Deakin University
- [Environmental Defender's Office New South Wales \(Ltd\)](#) (Assoc. Member)
- [Institute of Environmental Studies, University of NSW](#)
- [Institute for Sustainable Futures, University of Technology Sydney](#) (Assoc. Member)

Environment Organisations (state-based)

- [Cairns and Far North Environment Centre](#)
- [Conservation Council of South Australia](#)
- [Conservation Council of the ACT and Region](#)
- [Conservation Council of Western Australia](#)
- [Environment Centre of the Northern Territory](#)
- [Environment Tasmania](#)
- [Environment Victoria](#)
- [National Parks Association of NSW](#)
- [Nature Conservation Council of New South Wales](#)
- [Sustainable Living Tasmania](#)
- [Total Environment Centre](#)

Environment Organisations (regional)

- [Arid Lands Environment Centre](#)
- [Central West Environment Council](#)
- [Environment East Gippsland](#)
- [North Coast Environment Council](#)
- [Sunshine Coast Environment Council](#)

**Environment and Climate Organisations
(grassroots)**

- [Association for Berowra Creek](#)
- Bathurst Climate Action Network
- [Climate Action Coogee](#)
- [Climate Action Newcastle](#)
- [Climate Action Newtown](#)
- Climate Action Pittwater
- [Climate Action Tomaree](#)
- [Climate Action Now Wingecarribee](#)
- [Climate Change Australia](#)
- [Climate Change Balmain Rozelle](#)
- [Climate Emergency Network](#)
- Orange Climate Action Now
- [ParraCAN \(Parramatta Climate Action Network\)](#)
- [Rising Tide Newcastle](#)
- [Wollongong Climate Action Network](#)

[Climate Action Network Australia](#)

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