



Climate Action Network Australia

Senate rejects CPRS: Members' responses

August 2009

On August 13, 2009, the Rudd Government's proposed Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS) was rejected by the Australian Senate. This Scheme is proposed to start in 2011, with a carbon price set at \$10 per tonne for the first year of the scheme, and setting a target for emissions reductions at 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.

CANA's 65 member organisations have differing opinions on the rejection of the CPRS. The comments below are drawn from respective media releases.

CANA groups disappointed at the rejection

Uniting Church

The Uniting Church in Australia has today expressed its bitter disappointment over the failure of the Parliament to pass legislation that will support the prompt introduction of a Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme ... "It is time for the Government to listen to the people and deliver a scheme that will dramatically reduce our emissions and set us on a course to be a world leader in the low-carbon economy. "It is time for the Opposition to leave the sceptics behind and come on board. And it is time for both sides of politics to put political point-scoring aside in the interests of the future of our planet" [said Rev. Eleni Poulos].

The Climate Institute

The independent Climate Institute expressed its disappointment today at the failure of the Senate to strengthen and pass the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS) and urged all parties to strengthen and pass the renewable energy bills. ... John Connor, The Climate Institute CEO [said] "Strengthening and passing the CPRS is a vital step for Australia to be competitive in the emerging global clean energy economy and co-operative in helping achieve an effective global climate agreement".

WWF Australia

Greg Bourne, WWF-Australia CEO [stated] "The failure of this legislation has left the world in a more vulnerable position. Polling continues to show that Australians want leadership on climate change, yet we continue to see dinosaurs standing in the way of a low carbon future. "WWF looks forward to the legislation being brought back to Parliament at the earliest possible opportunity."

CANA groups that welcome the rejection

Friends of the Earth Australia

Friends of the Earth Australia (FoEA) today welcomed the Senate's rejection of the Rudd Government's proposed emissions reduction scheme. National climate campaigner for FoEA Damien Lawson said the scheme put forward by the Rudd Government would have locked Australia in to a high polluting economy. "The rejection of the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS) is an opportunity for the government to re-assess its approach to global warming and switch to a Plan B for dealing with the climate crisis," he said.

Other views of CANA members

Australian Conservation Foundation

ACF executive director Don Henry [said] "Our elected representatives need to make this Bill more environmentally effective, then they need to pass it into law. ACF will support any amendments to make the scheme stronger and we will vigorously oppose any attempts to weaken it. Improvements to the CPRS will improve Australia's ability to champion a strong global agreement at the crucial UN negotiations in Copenhagen in December".

World Vision, Oxfam and Caritas

The Prime Minister Kevin Rudd has been urged to upgrade Australia's climate change policy, and take an emissions reduction target of 40% below 1990 levels by 2020 to negotiations in Copenhagen in December. Leading Australian aid agencies World Vision, Oxfam and Caritas made the call after the CPRS legislation was voted down this morning. "We must now take a more ambitious approach to the negotiations at Copenhagen in December, beyond the 4 - 24% emissions cuts below 1990 levels by 2020 that Australia has currently committed to," said Jack de Groot, Chief Executive of Caritas Australia. "Australia must take a stronger leadership role into the global talks, offering practical solutions for developing nations including financial support for emissions reductions in developing countries and adaptation financing."

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!](#)

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](#)



www.cana.net.au

nina@cana.net.au

Lvl 13/ 235 Jones St Ultimo NSW 2007