

PM's citizens assembly a poor excuse for inaction as China pushes forward with price on pollution

Prime Minister Gillard will today announce a citizens assembly to form a consensus on rising pollution, but polls consistently show that consensus already exists.

Almost eight out of ten Australians, 77%, support climate action to give the planet the benefit of the doubt, according to the recent Auspoll commissioned by GetUp and The Climate Institute.

“Just two days ago it was reported in the China Daily that China will put a price on pollution from next year. Meanwhile Julia Gillard has yet another process for consultation but no policy to deal with rising pollution,” said GetUp National Director, Simon Sheikh.

“I hope Prof. Ross Garnaut is invited to the citizens assembly, because he has already been asked for advice by the Government and told them to take urgent action. I hope the CSIRO Chief Scientist Penny Sackett is among them also – because she too, has advised the Government to act now.”

“If Julia Gillard were serious about tackling rising pollution, the answer is simple: put a price on pollution. A price on pollution would reward Australian businesses who clean up their act and charge those who don't.”

An Auspoll poll commissioned by GetUp in March found that 72% of Australians would support a plan to reduce rising pollution in the next three years.

“Early action is the cheapest way to go when it comes to cutting pollution. Procrastinating and dithering will cost Australians more down the track. The Prime Minister must announce a price on pollution that will stop pollution levels increasing and start them declining within three years,” said Mr. Sheikh.

For more information please contact Sam Mclean on 0425 44 55 11.

GetUp! is Australia's largest independent political organisation. GetUp brings together like-minded people who want to bring participation back into our democracy. GetUp has over 370,000 members nationwide

APPENDIX 1

The Auspoll survey of 1000 Australians was taken between March 25th and March 29th 2010.

A plan to reverse our rising pollution in the next three years. Would you support or oppose a major political party offering a plan to reverse our rising pollution in the next three years?	
	Total
Strongly support	24.8
Support	47.5
Neither support nor oppose	23.9
Oppose	3.0
Strongly oppose	0.8
Total	100