

Media Release: Greenpeace Australia Pacific

Climate change ‘citizen assembly’ excuse to waste more time

Sydney, Friday 23 July 2010: Prime Minister Julia Gillard’s plan to create a citizen’s assembly to decide on climate action is a time waster that will drag Australia’s economy backwards, said Greenpeace head of campaigns Stephen Campbell,

“Julia Gillard is failing to move Australia from a pollution dependent economy to a safe and resilient clean economy,” he said.

“While the Daily Telegraph reports that more than 80 per cent of Australians want the Federal Government to act on climate change, our new Prime Minister, Julia Gillard, wants ‘community consensus’.”

“Clearly, our politicians are hanging out with the wrong people,” Mr Campbell said.

“The creation of a climate ‘jury’ is just code for “I need more time to talk to my friends in the mining industry.”

“Australians want to know that PM Gillard is addressing high levels of pollution and that her government has the leadership to grow the huge number of new jobs that will come from a shift to clean energy.

“If the Prime Minister wants to have any credibility in her attempts to deal with global warming she needs to take some very simple steps: she must introduce a pollution reduction standard for all new power, introduce a price on pollution and move subsidies from the high-polluting power sector to the renewable energy sector,” Mr Campbell said.

For further information contact:

Communications Officer: Elsa Evers 0438 204 041