WWF-Australia

Level 13
235 Jones St
Ultimo NSW 2007

Tel: +61 2 9281 5515
Fax: +61 2 9281 1060

enquiries@wwf.org.au
www.wwf.org.au

WWF *for a living planet*®

Press Release

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Australians voted for real action on climate change

WWF congratulates Julia Gillard on becoming the next Prime Minister of Australia, and calls on Ms Gillard to use the opportunity to implement a price on carbon as her number one priority in this term of government.

“A key reason the Greens and Independents Tony Windsor and Rob Oakeshott chose to support a Labor Government is because of a desire for strong action on climate change,” said Dermot O’Gorman, WWF-Australia’s CEO.

“Prime Minister Gillard must now work with the Parliament to ensure action is taken.”

WWF is calling on all sides of politics to support the passing of an emissions trading scheme within the next 12 months.

“For the second election in a row the Australian public has shown their support for a price on pollution. Parliament cannot keep ignoring community consensus,” said Mr O’Gorman.

“Australia has the highest pollution levels per person in the developed world, and it is still rising. The longer the Government delays the harder it will be to make the deep cuts we need and the more it will cost the economy.

“By implementing an emissions trading scheme now, Australia has a better chance of reducing its pollution by at least 25 per cent by 2020, reducing the cost of transition and improving our international competitiveness.”

In this year, the International Year of Biodiversity, WWF also looks forward to working with the Gillard Government to put in place policies that will halt our biodiversity decline.

“Australia already has the sad dishonour of having the largest number of mammal extinctions globally. The Gillard Government has the opportunity to turn this record around.

“We look forward to working with all members of Parliament on pesticides law reform, marine parks, Indigenous rangers, wildlife corridors and the Murray Darling Basin.”

For more information: Jonathon Larkin, Senior Media Officer, 0410 221 410, jlarkin@wwf.org.au