

**NEWS RELEASE FROM
CLIMATE CHANGE AUSTRALIA
(HASTINGS BRANCH)**

10 July 2011



**MID NORTH COAST CLIMATE GROUP WELCOMES
PACKAGE ON CARBON PRICING**

Members of Climate Change Australia - Hastings Branch (CCA-H), have welcomed the package of reforms on carbon pricing, renewable energy and tax reform released on Sunday.

CCA-H president Harry Creamer said it is a plan for prosperity and progress – a blueprint for Australia's future.

"It starts low and goes slow, and with fair and generous compensation payments, is not something to fear. Yet with reasonable targets to reduce carbon pollution by 5% below 2000 levels by 2020, and 80% by 2050, it is a win-win – for the environment and the economy", Mr Creamer said.

"The price on carbon pollution will start on 1 July 2012, with the top 500 polluting companies paying \$23 for every tonne of carbon pollution they emit. This will reduce Australia's carbon emissions by 160 million tonnes by 2020 and is a good start", he said.

"Our members also think the compensation package for households, pensioners, businesses and industries is a good one, with 1 million taxpayers taken out of the system, no longer needing to pay tax through raising the tax-free threshold from \$6000 to \$18,000".

"Nine out of ten households are to be compensated through Centrelink payment increases, tax cuts, or both. Households with incomes up to \$80,000 will be better off. Four million households will get an extra 20 per cent buffer payment to compensate", Mr Creamer said.

"The measures announced amount to a total average cost of living increase of \$9.90 week, with total average compensation of \$10.10", he said.

Mr Creamer also welcomed a clean energy fund to help build an Australian renewable energy industry.

"This is an ambitious plan for renewable energy, to drive innovation and change to a cleaner energy future, and create 1.6 million new jobs in the renewable energy sector and a re-vitalised manufacturing sector", he said.

"All in all, it is a big bold plan, and absolutely necessary given the facts of the situation facing us".

ENDS

Supplementary Notes on next page.

SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES:

WHAT IS HAPPENING?

The main purpose of these measures is to start to bring down greenhouse gas emissions. It is a fact, well known, and sure as the earth is round not flat, that every day, all around the world, we are emitting a total of 70 million tonnes each day of carbon dioxide, which is a powerful greenhouse gas. One third of this goes up into the atmosphere. Here it thickens the greenhouse layer which keeps us warm, but also acts like an extra blanket, making us too hot.

The planet has already warmed 1°C since 1900, and we are on track for 2°C in about 30 years and 4°C before the end of the century. The impacts of global warming are seen today in the melting of ice sheets and glaciers and from the oceans becoming more acidic. These things are photographed by satellites and measured by scientific instruments, as well as thermometers which show that every decade is becoming warmer than the past one.

WHY SHOULD WE DO IT?

Australia has a small population but emits the same as Italy, France, Spain, South Korea, Indonesia and the UK, which has three times our population. There is no other word for it, ours is a dirty economy and we waste a lot of energy. All this policy is asking, is that we do our fair share. This is the Australian way, and when there's a problem, we get in there and help fix it. (Or have we changed? - According to the alternative view, we would not have gone to World War 1 or 2, because we are small country far away from the main centres which caused the problem. But we did go, we are proud of it, and the better for it). It's the same with tackling climate change and global warming.

The real fear factor is not that pricing carbon will nudge the cost of living up by less than 1% fully compensated, **it is of a 4°C warmed world**. That is where we are currently heading, and people need to take some time to reflect on that. It's not a pretty picture, with millions of deaths from heatwaves/ droughts, storms/ floods, mass migrations, starvation and disease, and billions of dollars needed to just try to cope with disintegrating global social and economic systems. A 4°C warmed world can only support 1 billion people – now that's terrifying.

For more information, go to - www.cleanenergyfuture.gov.au

ENDS

Authored by Harry Creamer
President of Climate Change Australia – Hastings Branch

