

## Climate change: what can one nation do?

- Human induced climate change, if left unchecked, will have significant irreversible impacts on human health and well-being, and many of the world's species and ecosystems.
- High income countries are responsible for over three quarters of cumulative emissions. Developing countries will account for around three quarters of the increase in emissions over coming decades. Commitments by countries such as Australia to begin making deep cuts in emissions are crucial to building momentum for effective global action.
- Studies such as the Stern Review and the report commissioned by the Australian Business Roundtable on Climate Change suggest the social and economic impacts of action to reduce emissions are manageable, and much smaller than the impact of delaying action or failing to act.

## Why is this an issue in 2007?

- The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) suggests we must reduce global emissions in the next two decades in order to avoid dangerous levels of climate change.
- Effective action will require economic incentives (such as emissions trading), a long-term framework, and investment in a range of new technologies.
- Policy needs to ensure that the burden of emissions reductions is shared fairly, with special attention to helping low income and disadvantaged people.
- Policy also needs to address living with climate change, including changes to building standards, zoning for flood and storm prone areas, and helping people cope with higher temperatures.

## Ask your candidates

- Do you support ratifying the Kyoto Protocol and/or committing to greenhouse gas emission reductions through the UN international negotiations?
- What are your party's strategies to improve energy efficiency and further develop renewable energy technologies?
- Would your party commit to a greenhouse reduction target of at least 20% by 2020?

## FAST FACTS

**Australia has one of the world's highest levels of greenhouse gas emissions per person**, in front of the United States, the UK and Canada.

**Over 40 nations have introduced legislated renewable energy targets**, including Australia. However our target is far too low to have the necessary impact on our emissions. (Climate Action Network Australia, 2007).

25% of household emissions are caused by inefficient appliances and equipment. **Standby power alone is responsible for 10% of household emissions.** (CANA, 2007)

**The economic impact of Australia making deep cuts in emissions as part of global action would be small** – economic growth would continue at 2.1% per year, rather than 2.2-2.3% per year. (CSIRO, 2007)

IPCC reports that average global temperatures have **already risen by 0.7°C**, and will rise by **at least 1.1°C by the end of this century**, even with decisive reductions in global emissions.

*The threat posed by climate change... challenges the way we live in a fundamental way. If we are to meet and overcome the challenge we must think creatively about the organisation of our social and economic institutions, our relationship with each other across national and cultural boundaries and our relationship with the environment.*

**For the Sake of the Planet and all its People,**  
A Uniting Church in Australia Statement on Climate Change, November 2006

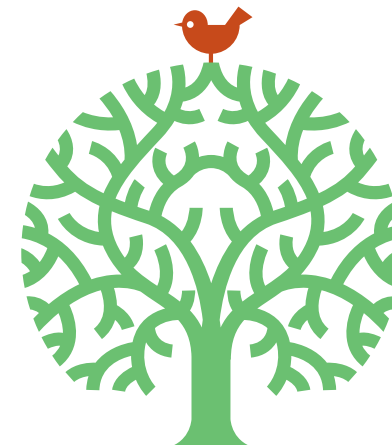


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# Climate Change



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