



Prime Minister
Julia Gillard MP
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister,

We write to congratulate you on your appointment as Australia's Prime Minister and urge you to take urgent action on reducing Australia's greenhouse gas emissions.

The Labor government was elected with a firm mandate from the people of Australia for immediate, effective action on climate change. Disappointingly, the government has yet to deliver on this promise and it has further broken faith with the community by delaying action on an emissions trading scheme until 2013.

Polling shows community concern about the impacts of climate change remains high, and people from diverse backgrounds and ages from all across the nation want strong, robust climate action from their political leaders.

Australia's peak conservation councils are calling on you to seize the opportunity as the new Prime Minister and make it your priority to deliver real action on climate change.

You must show that the Federal government has heard the people's concern on this issue and that it commits to take action, with or without the support of opposition parties. Strong leadership on reducing greenhouse emissions from Australia, one of the world's largest per capita carbon polluters, could also help revive international climate change negotiations.

Although the peak conservation councils around the country do not support the emissions trading scheme in its current form, we all support the urgent introduction of an effective price signal on greenhouse pollution complemented by actions that can immediately help meet the vital target of halving our emissions over the next decade.

The Australian Chief Scientist, Professor Penny Sackett, has advised that we have only about five years to dramatically cut levels of greenhouse pollution and avoid disastrous climate change.

Prime Minister, we urge your government to introduce an effective price on greenhouse pollution by 2011 and prioritise the following climate action:

- replace our most polluting power stations with clean energy;
- create new clean energy jobs and industries;
- guarantee to cut carbon pollution over the next term of government;
- support remote Indigenous communities in their transition to clean energy generation and their capacity to adapt to climate change impacts;
- support poor nations to develop clean energy and industries, and assist with their adaptation to the impacts of climate change.



A further suite of measures that can be implemented within two years to build the nation's capacity for halving its emissions over the next decade are outlined in our *Plan B: an Agenda for immediate Climate Action* (attached).

Australians want strong political leadership on securing a safe climate for a healthy society and economy. The peak conservation councils signing this letter today look forward to working with you in the lead up to the Federal election and beyond on achieving this vision.

Yours sincerely,

Pepe Clarke
Chief Executive Officer
Nature Conservation Council of NSW

Mark Wakeham
Campaigns Director
Environment Victoria

Toby Hutcheon
Executive Director
Queensland Conservation

Stuart Blanch
Coordinator
Environment Centre NT

Julie Pettett
Chief Executive
Conservation Council of South Australia

Piers Verstegen
Director
Conservation Council of Western Australia

Phill Pullinger
Director
Environment Tasmania

Stuart Blanch
Coordinator
Environment Centre NT

John Hibberd
Executive Director
Conservation Council of ACT Region