

The Hon Kevin Rudd
Prime Minister of Australia
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Thursday 29 April, 2010

Dear Prime Minister,

We write to express our concern that the Federal government appears to be walking away from its commitment to securing a safe climate future for the nation.

There are specifically two recent concerns we seek to raise with you:

1. the delay of an ETS until 2013; and
2. reports in the *Canberra Times* about deep cuts to community environment initiatives.

The announcement that a price signal on greenhouse pollution will be delayed until 2013 is extremely troubling, given the urgent need to reduce emissions to avoid dangerous levels of climate change.

Although many environment groups did not support the CPRS in its original (or amended) form, due to doubts about its effectiveness at actually reducing emissions, **the environment and community groups signing this letter advocate for an immediate and effective carbon price signal on greenhouse pollution as the backbone of any attempt to mitigate emissions.**

We are also concerned by any cuts to community-based environmental programs, such as Caring for Our Country, that have been flagged. The work carried out under this program is important in tackling landscape degradation, protecting and repairing threatened ecosystems, and protecting agriculture and natural areas from weeds and feral animals. These programs also employ many Australians and support the volunteer work of many more.

We seek your reassurance that funding for environmental programs will be maintained at current levels or increased.

Prime Minister, your statement that ‘climate change is the moral challenge of our generation’ inspired many Australians to believe that your government would implement policies to protect our environment and provide a safe climate future.

We urge your government to implement an effective carbon price signal on greenhouse pollution by 2011.

A growing number of Australians understand how crucial environmental sustainability and a safe climate are for a healthy society and healthy economy. The environment movement will continue to inform Australians about the environmental policies, actions and performance of all parties.

Please see overleaf for signatories.

Yours sincerely,

Don White
Chair
Nature Conservation Council of NSW

Paul Toni
Program Leader – Development & Sustainability
WWF-Australia

Mark Wakeham
Campaigns Director
Environment Victoria

John Hibberd
Executive Director
Conservation Council ACT Region

Toby Hutcheon
Executive Director
Queensland Conservation

Phill Pullinger
Director
Environment Tasmania

Julie Pettett
Chief Executive Officer
Conservation Council of SA

Kevin Evans
Executive Officer
National Parks Association of NSW

James Ryan
President
Friends of Tumblebee

Jim Morrison
President
North Coast Environment Council

Geoff Brown
President
Western Sydney Conservation Alliance

Keith Muir
Director
Colong Foundation for Wilderness

Frances Bray
President
Lake Wollumboola Protection Society

Peter Carroll
Company Secretary
SCRAP Ltd

Michael Dean
Coordinator
SHURE

Peter Stanton
President
Kangaroo Valley Environment Group

Derek Bolton
Member
Climate Change Balmain-Rozelle

Linda Haefeli
Climate Action Pittwater

Janet France
Coordinator
North Shore Climate Action

Leonie Blain
Hon Secretary
Clarence Valley Conservation Coalition