

13 April 2010

The Hon Kevin Rudd MP  
Prime Minister  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister

### **OPEN LETTER CALLING FOR IMMEDIATE CLIMATE ACTION**

Together we represent unions and workers, social welfare organisations, faith-based organisations, and environment groups large and small, local and national.

We share a common goal of a fast and fair transition to a low carbon economy that we know will create millions of clean energy jobs and help drive ambitious global climate action.

We know that this will be a challenging transition requiring decisive political leadership.

As you have said, climate change is one of the greatest moral and economic challenges of our time, but the benefits of action will be substantial. The benefits will include a competitive Australian economy in the already booming global clean energy economy.

**We call on you to act on carbon pollution and climate change before the next election. We call on you to get started with an immediate price on carbon to begin the process of serious emissions reductions.**

**While separately our organisations support a range of actions, we all support, at the least, an immediate two year levy on carbon pollution from Australia's biggest emitters. The levy can fund** reducing pollution, supporting Australian households, helping industry to transition to cleaner practices, and further boost Australia's renewable energy sector. Immediate action will provide increased certainty for business that wants to invest in clean technologies and climate solutions, and are currently hesitant.

A two year levy, similar to that proposed by Professor Garnaut, is not a substitute for a long-term limit and price on carbon, but it will get the job of cleaning up Australia's economy underway.

We urge you to negotiate with the Senate **in this term of Parliament** to pass legislation that makes our largest companies pay for their carbon pollution and begins the

transition to a clean energy economy. With your leadership, Australia can start the shift to a clean energy economy and help rebuild momentum for ambitious global action.

Yours sincerely,

GetUP! Action for Australia, Australian Conservation Foundation, Greenpeace, The Climate Institute, Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS), The Wilderness Society, Australian Youth Climate Coalition, Uniting Justice Australia (Uniting Church in Australia), National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU) Victoria, The Australia Institute, Climate Emergency Network, Justice and International Mission Unit, Uniting Church in Australia, Synod of Victoria and Tasmania, Greenleap Strategic Institute, WATCH - Wodonga and Albury Towards Climate Health, Conservation Council of WA, Victoria Climate Action Centre, Queensland Conservation, Environment Victoria, Australian Climate Justice Program, LIVE (Locals Into Victoria's Environment), Portland Sustainability Group, Mount Alexander Sustainability Group, Environment Centre NT, Moonee Valley Climate Action, The Climate Action Calendar, National Toxics Network, PlugIn Australia, Green Coast Catalysts, Northshore Climate Action Group, Lighter Footprints, ParraCAN (Parramatta Climate Action Network), Conservation Council SA, Climate Change Australia - Hastings Branch, Ballina Climate Action Network, Broadwater Community Dunecare, Hepburn Wind, BREAZE - Ballarat Renewable Energy and Zero Emissions, Climate Action Newcastle, Climate Change Balmain-Rozelle, Ryde Gladesville Climate Change Action Group, Nature Conservation Council (NSW), Climate Action Canberra, South East Climate Action Coalition, Climate Change: Our Future Inc. (Monash and Glen Eira Climate Action Group), Bayside Climate Change Action, Climate Action Newtown, Sutherland Climate Action Network, Beyond Zero Emissions, Outdoor Lighting Reform Action Group, Chelsea Heights EarthCarers, Ararat Greenhouse Action Group Inc, Henry's Hydraulics Pty Ltd, Rhubarb Foods Cooperative Foods Ltd, Dandenong Ranges Renewable Energy Association.