

**Australia's Climate Action Summit**

**Our climate, our future, our summit**

**APPROVED POLICY  
RECOMMENDATIONS  
ON  
CLIMATE CHANGE**

**DRAFT – 2 FEB 2009**

# Approved – Sun 8 Feb 09, 2.30-4pm

**NOTE:** Over 200 people attended the first plenary voting session on Sunday.

## **Safe Climate Targets – Global**

**R1.** Strong, decisive action is required to dramatically reduce emissions and facilitate a global agreement that aims to **return our planet to a safe climate zone** within the next few decades.

**R2.** Global levels of **CO<sub>2</sub>** need to be stabilised at **300ppm**, enabling the Arctic sea ice to refreeze and thereby facilitating a return to a safe climate zone.

**R3.** Net global GHG emissions need to fall to zero as soon as possible (but no later than 2050/ at emergency speed in line with current science).

**R4.** Global **coal** use needs to be **phased out by at least 2030**.

**R5.** Establishment of a **Global Carbon Sequestration Taskforce** is required to address our **historical carbon debt**.

## **Safe Climate Targets – Australia**

**R6.** Australia's **CO<sub>2</sub> emissions** must begin **declining by 2010** and be **reduced** by at least **60% by 2020** and **90% by 2030** (from 1990 levels)\*

**R7.** Australia's **net GHG emissions** to be **zero by 2050\***.

\*that is, at emergency speed in line with current science.

## **100% Clean Renewable Energy by 2020**

**R8.** **100% of Australia's energy** to come from clean, renewable sources **by 2020**.

**R9.** Establishment of a **Renewable Energy Task Force** is required to formulate a **timeline** and **implementation plan** for the renewables roll-out by 2020. [out of this, a Statutory Sustainable Energy Authority could be established to run programs]

**R10.** A **substantial increase** in Government **investment and support** for renewable energy is essential, including increasing the Renewable Energy Fund (from \$500mil to \$10bil) and Solar and Clean Energy research fund (from \$150mil to \$10bil).

**R11.** A generous **Gross National Feed-In Tariff** for renewables to be implemented by July 2009 (combined with the 100% renewables target, this would replace MRET and existing State and Territory Feed-In Tariffs).

**R12.** Renewable energy **rebates** to be **equal** across all states and territories.

**R13.** Rebates on **solar hot water systems** to be continued and increased. (Note – boosted by renewable energy.)

**R14. Rebates on residential solar PV** to continue, with an appropriate, well - communicated phase-down commensurate with the predicted substantial fall in the price of solar PV and implementation of a Gross National FIT.

**R15.** Major infrastructure investment into building an **intelligent, efficient and effective electricity grid**.

**R16.** By the end of 2009 all **Government agencies to purchase 100% renewable energy**, under the National Green Power Accreditation Program.

## **Phasing out Fossil Fuels in Australia**

### ***Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme***

R17. CAGs **oppose the current CPRS** due to its major flaws and **strongly oppose the legislation of the CPRS** prior to the Copenhagen climate talks in December 2009. The CPRS emissions floor is unacceptable, as individual / community / business efforts to reduce emissions simply enables big polluters to pollute more.

(NOTE: the Government can still levy a price on carbon in the meantime.)

### ***Phasing out Coal and Gas***

**R19.** An **urgent ban on all new coal and gas-fired power stations** in Australia is required, effective immediately.

**R20.** An **urgent ban** is also required on **all new coal and gas exploration and mining in Australia** for both **domestic** and **export** markets.

**R21.** All federal **subsidies, tax incentives** and **financial support** to the fossil fuel industry to be **suspended**.

**R22.** Preparation of detailed **phase-down timetables** for **coal and gas** plants, including a sector wide phase-down trajectory over the next 10 years.

**R23.** We call on the Government to **prepare detailed phase-down plans** for **existing mines** and **export contracts** as well as an appropriate “Just Transitions” plan to support the 2030 phase-down.

### ***Carbon Capture and Storage***

**R24.** CAGs do **not support Government funding** for CO<sub>2</sub> Capture and Storage (CCS) in the **coal power** sector in Australia.

**R25.** Propose that the **\$500 million Clean Coal Fund** as well as any other funding / support for CCS be **redirected** into promoting and advancing **renewable** energy technology, growth and infrastructure.

### ***Phase-down of Oil***

**R28.** Call on the Government to prepare a **detailed strategy to end our dependence on oil** and manage the social implications of peak oil.

### ***Nuclear Power and Uranium Mining***

**R29.** CAGs **do not support** the **use of Nuclear Power** as part of the energy mix, as Australia has abundant solar, wind wave and geo-thermal power resources in which investment should be focussed instead.

**R31.** CAGs **do not support** proposals to **store high-level radioactive waste** from Nuclear reactors overseas **in Australia**. This issue should be put to the Australian people by referendum, prior to any decision by Government on this matter.

## **Revolutionising Energy Efficiency in Australia!**

**R32.** The Government to prepare and **implement a National Energy Efficiency Scheme within the next 6 months**, adopting world's best practice in energy efficiency measures for buildings, appliances and vehicles.

### ***Buildings and Housing***

**R33.** The Government to **formulate and implement a new National Green Buildings Standard** for new developments, buildings and major renovations to existing buildings, including mandated energy reduction goals of 50% by 2010 and 75% by 2015, and a mandated emissions reduction goal of zero-net emissions (that is carbon neutral) by 2020.

**R34.** Call for the creation of a **national public housing program** to build **100,000 energy efficient homes** with effective public transport links **by 2012**. [concept raised of Danish co-housing models]

**R35.** All **existing government housing** should be **retrofitted** to conform to the new national rating, protecting tenants from energy price increases, and meeting the same new standards for their own administrative/office standards.

**R36.** The Government to prepare a **detailed plan by 2010 to facilitate retrofits of existing buildings** (including public housing and private rental accommodation) with **energy and water saving** technologies.

### ***Energy Efficiency – Appliances***

**R37.** The Government to mandate a target (and appropriate labelling) for all **major household appliances** (including refrigerators, televisions, air conditioners and heating) to become at least **50% more energy efficient by 2020**.

**R38.** The Government to **limit the energy used in standby power** mode across ALL electronic appliances currently on the market to **1-Watt by 2015**.

**R39.** The Government to legislate that all **electronic** devices automatically **enter low-power modes** after a reasonable period of inactivity.

### ***Green Products Standard and Education Campaigns***

**R40.** Call for the introduction of a **Green Products Standard** to provide independent verification of the 'green' claims being made in the market.

**R41.** Support **targeted education campaigns** that enable consumers to take responsibility for emissions caused by their choice of goods and services.

### **Repowering Public and Private Transport**

**R42.** An **urgent Federal review of public transportation** across **Australia**, leading to **design and implementation of new public transport systems**. [i.e major investment by govt in area]

**R43.** All **design and development planning** to take account of **proximity to public transport systems** as well as bicycle transport and walking.

**R44.** All **major developments** to also **cover some of the costs** of public transport infrastructure provision as part of the development.

**R45.** If required, a portion of funds [raised through the CPRS or carbon tax] to **subsidise public transport** for pensioners, carers and low-income families.

**R46.** The Government to **expand bicycle** and low-speed two axle vehicle **networks** throughout major cities and help to establish mechanisms to **encourage a greater uptake in cycling** as a means for **transport**.

**R47.** The Government to **mandate new fuel efficiency standards** for all new motor vehicles, trucks and buses, including a new passenger vehicle fleet (similar to the new European standards) and a new public vehicle efficiency standard by 2012 with a progressive efficiency increase of 3% per annum.

**R48.** Call on the Government to **provide incentives to vehicle manufacturers** to relocate to Australia and/or establish **hybrid and "plug-in" electric vehicle manufacturing plants in Australia**.

**R49.** A **mandatory zero emissions vehicle target** of 5% of our total new car **fleet**, commencing in 2010, a target that could then be doubled every 5 years, commensurate with our implementation of 100% renewable energy. [

**R50.** The Government to **support the roll out of plug-in points** for **electric vehicles** in designated zones as well as retrofitting options for the existing national car fleet with low or zero-emission technology.

**R51.** Call on the Government to **cancel the fringe benefit tax loophole** on the use of company cars for private commuting, all **subsidies** on the use of **diesel** fuel and tax breaks / **subsidies** for **four wheel** drives/large vehicles.

## **Just Transitions**

**R74.** Call on the **Government** to **actively assist countries** in the region to **adapt** to **climate change** and develop strategies that address critical issues of rising sea levels, changing rainfall patterns and water and food shortages.

**R75.** Develop a **national climate refugee policy** and actively participate in an international agreement that assists affected people to be relocated.

**R76.** Call on the Government to **establish a “Just Transitions” Committee** to plan for an **equitable and fair transition** for employees and communities affected by the transition to an **emissions-neutral economy**.

- This Committee should include expert representatives from all levels of Government, communities reliant on affected industries, land managers, indigenous communities, industry, unions, non-governmental organizations, those experienced in reskilling industry workers and communities affected by large scale job losses.

## ***Population and Climate Change***

**R77.** Given the strains already evident on the global biosphere, CAGs call for targets and policy changes for ecologically sustainable **population levels**, set in line with the ability of the **natural system** and our **finite resources** to supply the necessities of life.

## **Keeping Australians Informed**

**R78.** Governments to **acknowledge the urgency of taking action** and **rapidly adopt the mitigation and adaptation measures** required (as set out in this paper) to avert a climate emergency.

**R79.** Government to **establish and take advice** from an **Independent Science Committee** that:

- Draws together non-partisan experts from a wide cross section of relevant scientific bodies, and independent institutions; reviews and digests new science relating to climate change; undertakes ongoing study into tipping points; identifies policies, measures and targets required to tackle climate change underpinned by sound science not political expedience; and provides free public seminars so people are able to interact on a deeper level with scientists.

**R80.** CAGs call on the **Prime Minister of Australia** to **report back** to us on an **annual basis** on:

- Australia's greenhouse gas emissions (with and without fossil fuel exports); annual emissions reductions; adaptation strategies; opportunities to increase national carbon sequestration opportunities; Australia's international policy stance and input into climate change negotiations, progress on reducing global deforestation and other measures to enhance the effectiveness of carbon sinks.

# Approved – Mon 9 Feb 09, 10.15-11am

**NOTE:** Around 45 people attended the first plenary voting session on Sunday.

## **Land Use – Agriculture and Forestry**

### ***Agriculture***

\* Livestock Production accounted for +/- 23% of Australia's GHG emissions in 2006 (AGO figures).

\* The policy working group recognises that key policy positions in this area are essential as part of our transition to a safe climate zone.

\* In this context, the policy working group will undertake further work in this area and present recommendations to groups as part of Draft 3.

**R52.** We reject any biotechnology 'quick fixes' (genetically modified organisms) to address the substantial climate adaptation issues facing agriculture.

**R53.** The Government to **urgently estimate the emissions** from **agriculture** and work on a timetable of promoting/supporting biosequestration to facilitate a draw-down of historical carbon in our atmosphere.

### ***Native Forest Logging***

**R54B.** The government enact an immediate end to clearing, industrial scale logging and woodchipping of native forests.

**R55.** The Government to develop a **structural adjustment package** to **assist native forest commodity producers** to **exit the industry** or transition to the plantation industry.

**R56B.** **Native forests** to be listed as **heritage protected sites**, managed on behalf of the community and for the benefit of the community.

**R57B.** **Large scale government funding** for a **Biodiversity Fund**, administered by an expert panel, with the purpose of land acquisition, protection, and provision of incentive payments for landholders in recognition of biodiversity conservation and biosequestration.

### ***Accounting for Carbon***

**R58.** We urge accounting methodologies which cover all anthropogenic sources and sinks and which disaggregate emissions from sequestration. **Logging emissions** to be **calculated at source** (as per IPCC), and included in overall emissions calculations. Government to **urgently rectify the Australian accounting loophole** that currently assigns emissions to the importing country and understates Australian emissions as recipient countries may expect these to have already been accounted for at source.

### ***Reforestation***

**R59. Emissions reduction through reforestation** must be **additional** to cuts in industrial emissions, to enable us to draw down historic carbon.

**R60B.** Exclude forests from the CPRS.

**R61.** The Government to **rapidly develop and support national measures to connect and protect ecosystem networks and corridors** to maximise the capacity of wildlife and vegetation to adapt to changing climatic patterns.

**R62. No land that already supports native vegetation** should be used for **commercial plantations**. All afforestation and reforestation programs must plant mixed native species of local provenance.

**R63B. Plantations must not be established** in catchments where **water has been over-allocated**, to avoid impacts in-stream and on riparian biodiversity.

### ***Plantation Woods***

**R64B.** The Government to enact legislation that requires a rapid transition for **wood products** in **Australia** to come from ecologically sustainable **plantation wood**.

### ***Bio-energy from Wood Waste***

**R67.** Call on the Government to enact a legislated **nation-wide ban** on all **native forest inputs into bio-energy plants**.

**R68B.** CAGs immediately **reject the inclusion** of bio-energy from **native forests** as a **renewable energy** source in the CPRS, 100% Renewables mix and MRET legislation.

### ***Reducing Global Deforestation***

**R69B.** In the lead up to Copenhagen, CAGs support a policy frameworks that ensure a UNFCCC global climate treaty with international rules that protect forests and other natural ecosystems and upholds the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights, be that REDD (“reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation”) or other mechanisms. [Appropriate treatment of definitional and methodological issues is necessary in order to avoid perverse outcomes.]

**R70B.** Call on the Government to initiate a **global phase-out plan** on the production of any **products** containing wood from **virgin / native forests** - while respecting the traditional economies and not adversely affecting the rights and interests of Indigenous peoples and (forest dependent peoples).

### ***Biomass Energy Industry***

**R71B.** CAGs support sustainably sourced biomass, that is - not sourced from timber, natural ecosystems or food crops.



## **New Recommendation – Land Use Section of Paper**

**R81. Large scale government funding for a Land Management Fund**, to pay for maintaining and improving carbon sinks in soils and vegetation across all land tenure.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** This recommendation number will change in the final document once it has been integrated into the correct place.

DRAFT