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EXPERTS URGE STRONG ACTION TO HOLD BACK TIDE OF CLIMATE CHANGE

The Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA) has added its voice to those of a range of experts calling on the Australian Government to adopt strong emission reduction targets in the wake of the Garnaut Review.

“Unless greenhouse gas reductions in the order of 20 to 25% of 2000 levels are built in for 2020 then the risks to human health dramatically rise. The Rudd Government must base its emissions reduction targets on the scientific evidence and not be swayed by sectional interests,” PHAA spokesperson Dr Peter Tait said in response to release of Professor Garnaut’s Final Report yesterday.

The PHAA concurs with the views of the sixteen climate scientists expressed in an open letter to Prime Minister Rudd this Monday, urging the Australian Government to adopt an emission reduction target for Australia of 25% below 1990 levels by 2020 as the minimum requirement for Australia's contribution to an effective global climate agreement, in line with the Garnaut recommendations.

“The PHAA is concerned that without serious immediate action to curb increases in greenhouse gas emissions any hope of containing global warming to less than three degrees will be lost. It is essential for the future of humanity that we contain warming to less than two to three degrees. As Professor Garnaut says, when society suffers a ‘large shock to its established patterns of life the outcome is unpredictable in detail but generally problematic. Things fall apart’,” agreed Dr Tait.

“Things falling apart would obviously be bad for human health and well-being. At this critical juncture Australia must show leadership in the world and Prime Minister Rudd must live up to the promise he made last year to take strong action on climate change,” said Dr Tait.

For further information/comment:

Dr Peter Tait, PHAA Environmental Health Special Interest Group Spokesperson 0429 386 186
Adjunct Professor Michael Moore, Chief Executive Officer, PHAA 0417 249 731