



Public Health Association
AUSTRALIA

5 May 2010
The Hon. Kevin Rudd, MP
Prime Minister
Australian Parliament
Canberra, ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister

The Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA) is extremely disappointed at the postponement and consequent marginalising of the CPRS legislation. The PHAA is concerned that without serious immediate action to curb increases in greenhouse gas emissions any hope of containing global warming to a reasonable, safe level consistent with long term human health and wellbeing will be lost.

We had looked forward to this government taking leadership on climate change in the way it has on the health reform, alcohol and smoking agendas; that is by taking on board what the evidence is showing and setting policy accordingly. We were particularly delighted at the recent action taken by government to increase tobacco taxation and to move to plain tobacco packaging.

The government's response to the Henry review was another example of the sort of leadership that we had expected on global warming; firm statements and standing up to vested interests. By failing to bring action on global warming forward in this way, the government has let those who sow doubt win the day. Not only are our members disappointed but this will have disillusioned very many of the Australian public.

Shelving action until the next Kyoto commitment period is also failing to show leadership on the international stage. Australia can only be credible in international forums when we have a credible domestic position. In fact, in climate negotiations it would seem that only by several key nations holding strong domestic positions that the international position will be able to move forward. Australia could be leading negotiations. Instead you have put Australia on the sidelines.

The PHAA strongly urges you to rework the CPRS legislation so its price signals can deliver the goals without being undermined by free permits and vested interest subsidies. We encourage negotiation with minor parties and independents in the Senate to have it pass, and for you to explain clearly to the Australian people why it is so important to take these measures for our future prosperity and health.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Moore
CEO

cc: Senator Penny Wong, Minister for Climate and Water