



28 March 2011

Members and Members invited to assist
Multi-Party Climate Change Committee
Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency

Dear Members

The Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA) provides forums for discussions on public health in Australia and a voice that advocates through a strong membership (over 1800 in February 2011) of professional public health workers which span the health spectrum for better public health research, policies, programs and funding.

PHAA is founded on values of social justice and a focus on addressing the environmental and social determinants of health and wellbeing, social injustice, health inequalities and inequities. The PHAA Policy on a Safe Climate (attached) asserts the importance of addressing climate change as a priority.

The PHAA is interested in the formulation of policy to address climate change in Australia for two reasons. First, the health impacts of global warming are going to make addressing several current public health matters harder while creating others. Secondly, public health is used to addressing issues of behaviour change on societal scales. We also watched the lead in to the attempted introduction of the former CPRS and feel that one of the missing factors was a clear, independent governance arrangement.

As such we would like to make the following suggestions for consideration of the Multi-Party Climate Change Committee. While not strictly within the Committee's terms of reference, except Term 5, it seems to PHAA that undertaking the work assigned to the committee without addressing the governance arrangements of any mechanism or scheme for pricing carbon and engendering behaviour change by industry and Australian people risks being derailed again without a robust governance structure.

The PHAA advocates for the introduction of an independent carbon bank along the lines of that proposed by Garnaut in his 2008 report (Garnaut R. The Garnaut Climate Change Review: Final Report. Port Melbourne, Australia: Cambridge University Press; 2008, pp351-353) and in his Update Paper 6 of March 2011 (<http://www.garnautreview.org.au/update-2011/update-papers/up6-key-points.html> (25/3/11)). We agree with the reasoning given behind the proposal. However PHAA suggests that such a Carbon Bank go beyond that proposed by Garnaut, to also take the scientific advice in setting targets and trajectories for emission reductions. Garnaut seems to be moving toward this model in his Update Paper 6. Independent governance removes this area from political pressures. The Board of such a Bank could comprise people of all relevant expertise including economists and science policy advisors.

PHAA urges you to include consideration of governance in your deliberations and to propose that the Independent Carbon Bank with authority to set targets, trajectories as well as the administrative role set out by Garnaut.

Yours faithfully



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Peter Tait
Convenor,
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