



THE CLIMATE CHANGE AUTHORITY RELEASES FINAL REPORT on AUSTRALIA'S FUTURE EMISSIONS REDUCTION TARGETS

Statement by the Chair, Mr Bernie Fraser
2 July 2015

The Climate Change Authority has confirmed its preliminary recommendations to the Government that, at the forthcoming Paris Conference, Australia should commit to:

- i. a target to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 30 per cent below 2000 levels by 2025; and
- ii. further reductions of between 40 and 60 per cent below 2000 levels by 2030.

These recommendations were contained in the Authority's draft report to the Minister for the Environment dated 22 April 2015. Since that time the Authority has had the opportunity to consider helpful feedback from various stakeholders and some new information which has come to light; the end result is that the Authority has stuck with its earlier recommendations in the final report to the Minister, which is being released today.

The Authority is a statutory body established under the *Climate Change Authority Act 2011*. This Act requires the Authority to provide independent and balanced advice on various climate policy issues, having regard to a number of considerations, including the implications of its advice for different sectors of the community, the economy and the environment. These considerations have guided the Authority in all its work to date, including the draft and final reports on Australia's post-2020 emissions reduction targets.

The Authority's final report is essentially a brief update—it totals less than 10 pages—of the arguments canvassed in some detail in the draft report. No further summarisation is considered necessary here but the "Endpiece" to the final report—which indicates the context and flavour of that report—is attached.

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Endpiece

For the reasons discussed in its Draft Report and reiterated briefly here, the Authority confirms its preliminary recommendations that Australia commit to the following package at the forthcoming Paris Conference:

- a 2025 target of a 30 per cent reduction in its emissions below 2000 levels (or a 36 per cent reduction if the Government should choose 2005 as its preferred base year); and
- further reductions within a range of 40 to 60 per cent below 2000 levels by 2030 (or a range of approximately 45 to 65 per cent below 2005 levels).

The second and third parts of the Special Review commissioned by the Minister for the Environment require the Authority to report on possible policy actions to achieve Australia's post-2020 targets. As part of this exercise, a draft report on the case for an emissions trading scheme for Australia is to be completed by 30 November 2015. The third and final part of the Special Review specifically requires the Authority to report by 30 June 2016 on the full suite of actions Australia should take to meet its commitments arising out of the Paris Conference. That final report will be the vehicle for the Authority to present its analysis and recommendations on how Australia's actual post-2020 targets might be most appropriately and cost-effectively implemented.

At this time, however, attention is properly focussed on the targets themselves. The Authority believes its recommendations constitute a credible package for the Australian Government to take to the Paris Conference. It is credible in terms of what the science requires—and what many comparable countries are doing—to move the world back towards a global emissions reduction path consistent with a reasonable chance of limiting the increase in global warming to 2 degrees. It would also send a credible signal to domestic and international stakeholders alike that the Government is intent on playing a leadership role in guiding Australia's long-term transition to a sustainable, low carbon world.