



## Climate Change Authority Targets and Progress Review Draft Report

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the Climate Change Authority's consultation on the **Targets and Progress Review: Draft Report**.

The Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (NAGA) supports strong and effective emissions reduction targets that are informed by the climate science and that underpin the necessary, and urgent transition to a low-carbon economy. NAGA supports setting more ambitious short-term targets rather than postponing necessary action; given current global commitments, the urgency of the task and the seriousness of the impacts for Australia (already being felt by communities across the country), NAGA supports CCA's Option 2, which defines the larger 25% short-term emissions reduction target as the appropriate pathway for adoption now.

It is in Australia's interests, as a global trading partner, and as a country likely to be severely affected by climate change impacts, to take strong and effective climate change action, as part of the global effort to equitably and urgently reduce emissions. It has been demonstrated by a range of credible authorities in Australia and internationally (including the IPCC, OECD, IEA, World Bank and IMF, as well as prominent Australian university and business economists) that early action is more effective and cheaper than postponing efforts which will then require deeper cuts faster as we approach the 2050 target.

### **About Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action**

The **Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action** (NAGA) is an alliance of Moreland Energy Foundation and the nine councils spanning the northern metropolitan region of Melbourne from the CBD to the rural/urban fringe (see footer). The Alliance covers a quarter of Melbourne's population; the region spans major industrial, commercial, and residential areas, activities and types, as well as forests, agriculture, and water catchments on the urban fringe.

NAGA shares information, coordinates emission reduction and adaptation activities, and cooperates on the research and development of innovative projects. NAGA and its members have demonstrated significant climate change action innovation at the local government and regional level. NAGA is actively involved in implementing regional scale climate change projects and developing approaches to governance, project management and business cases to support this work. **NAGA is working to ensure urgent, regional action in our transition to a climate-changed, low-carbon future.**

### **Setting Australia's emission reduction targets for 2020 and beyond**

Scientific evidence is increasingly supporting the need to **keep warming below 2°C** to avoid the more extreme effects of dangerous climate change. The urgency of the action required means that **short term targets based on the science** are of increased importance, to achieve deep cuts relatively quickly and move toward a low carbon economy. There is a growing body of reports and research demonstrating that short term action is cost effective, and will better prepare Australia and its economy for a carbon constrained future. Conversely the cost of inaction is substantial and wide-ranging.

There is continuing community support for effective action on climate change. Global ambition for stronger emission reduction goals is growing, evidenced by substantial climate change action including formal national and state-based emission reduction programs in other key economies around the world including

#### **MEMBER ORGANISATIONS**

major emitting countries and major economies. It is within this context that Australia should significantly increase its emission reduction target for 2020 from 5% to its stronger target of 25% by 2020.

It is in Australia's national interests to support effective global action on climate change, because Australia is exposed and vulnerable to climate change impacts. In addition, Australia's economy, and high per capita emissions mean that Australia's economy will be particularly exposed in a carbon-constrained context; substantial action now to support the transition to a low-carbon economy is therefore in Australia's best interests.

### ***Global action and Australia's role***

Climate change, by definition an issue that spans national boundaries, requires effective action from all nations, and Australia has a responsibility to be part of global efforts. Australia's efforts can contribute to and constructively support increasing global action and ambition.

Australia must adopt a credible, effective target for emissions reductions, underpinned by the science, and that increasingly, countries around the world are working towards. Australia risks being sidelined in the global effort if it is seen to be not responding to global shared efforts, or removing effective climate action mechanisms.

### ***Impacts of emission reduction goals***

Emissions reductions will require substantial transformation to our existing fossil fuel based economy, with Australia's high per capita emissions. With the application of an equitable global carbon budget, Australia has substantial work to do to stay within a fair and equitable carbon budget allocation. Such transitions may create significant economic and social impacts. There is significant value and potential competitive advantage in taking substantial action now to transition the Australian economy. Ramping up action now can be more cost-effective, and establish competitive advantages, as well as contributing to reducing the risk of stranded assets.

The Draft Report notes that over the past two decades Australia has achieved solid economic growth while halving its emissions intensity (emissions per unit of GDP), demonstrating that economic growth and emissions growth can very effectively be decoupled, particularly when supported by a policy platform to drive economy-wide emissions reduction, underpinned by renewable energy, energy efficiency and political leadership, business and community action.

### ***Role of the Climate Change Authority***

NAGA supports the work of the Climate Change Authority; it is important that an independent body exists to undertake research and analysis to inform Australia's climate change policy development, and to monitor and evaluate the level of national emissions, and the effectiveness of the policy platform driving emission reductions and the economic transition to a low carbon future.

Please contact me if you would like to discuss any of the issues raised in this submission in more detail.

Yours sincerely



Judy Bush  
Executive Officer

***The views represented in this submission do not necessarily represent the views of all NAGA members individually.***