



Media Release

Saturday 19th December 2009

NT Climate Change Policy – Some Good Body But Missing Teeth

Climate Action Darwin welcomes the long-awaited release yesterday of the Territory Government's Climate Change Policy. "We finally have some solid commitments to action, some with multiple environmental benefits, and many with good focus on local priorities" said Michael Cauce of Climate Action Darwin.

"Unfortunately, like the Copenhagen climate talks which have just ended, there is a real lack of teeth. We all know 2050 targets are meaningless without short range targets."

"We want to support the government in its efforts to address climate change, however the task is not made easy when there is zero consultation with one of the only climate change focused community groups in Darwin." (Chief Minister Henderson claimed to have gone through 18 months of community consultation).

"That aside, the new policy does not match what the science is telling us we need to collectively achieve in order to ensure a safe climate future for the Territory" he said.

Among the shortcomings, two important elements which are missing from the policy include 2020 emission reduction targets, and most importantly, a target year for emissions to peak and start coming down – without which, the rest of the policy is left meaningless.

"All the action in the world doesn't matter if we aren't starting to reduce our **total** annual emissions. The latest science says we need emissions to peak very soon." said Mr Cauce.

"If the government is going to be serious about protecting our future and tackling climate change, we also need to see a commitment to 100% renewable energy in the shortest possible time frame. Alongside this we recognise that industry is forecasting strong growth in the Territory. We need to bring industry operations towards a carbon neutral position through innovative and solid regulation involving efficiency, renewable energy, cleaner technology and offsetting where necessary."

"In the mean time, we call upon the Chief Minister to take a stand and state for the record both 2020 emission targets and the year in which the Territory's emissions will peak."

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