



CLIMATE AND
HEALTH
ALLIANCE

MEDIA RELEASE

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Carbon price revenue should support health, not polluters

The Climate and Health Alliance (CAHA) has today released a new briefing paper on the carbon pricing framework, with health groups calling for carbon pricing revenue to be directed to assist the health sector cut emissions, and not to shore up the profits of polluters.

CAHA Convenor Fiona Armstrong said the Alliance did not believe companies and industries that had maintained a deliberate strategy of continuing to invest in and develop high emitting industries and technologies deserved any compensation.

“Given the substantial and long term evidence regarding global warming, the failure of many corporations to better position themselves for a low carbon future is a breach of their fiduciary responsibilities and a gross failure of corporate risk management, for which compensation is inappropriate,” Ms Armstrong said.

The Climate and Health Alliance is seeking the application of carbon pricing revenue in compensation to low income and vulnerable members of the community, as well as invested in zero emissions technology research, development, and deployment, plus technologies and strategies to draw down emissions.

However while the carbon pricing mechanism is an important measure in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, CAHA emphasised that it is only one of a suite of mechanisms needed for achieving substantial and sustained emission reductions.

“We need a comprehensive suite of policies if we are to have any hope of reducing emissions in line with the science,” Ms Armstrong said.

“Therefore in addition to a carbon price, we need stronger regulation of emissions, mandated energy efficiency standards, investment in zero emissions energy, transport and transmission infrastructure, and removal of the current perverse incentives that subsidise fossil fuels – currently costing taxpayers \$10 billion a year.”

The Climate and Health Alliance is also calling for revenue raised from the carbon price to fund energy efficiency measures in the health sector to reduce energy demand and energy costs.

“Given the impact (and increasing demands) on the health sector from climate change, we believe this is an important and legitimate claim,” Ms Armstrong said.

The Climate and Health Alliance was established in August 2010. It is an alliance of health care stakeholders who wish to see the risk to human health from climate change addressed through prompt policy action. See www.caha.org.au/about/members

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The CAHA **Briefing Paper No.3: Carbon price framework** is available at http://caha.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/CAHA-Briefing-Paper-3_The-carbon-price-framework.pdf