



CLIMATE AND HEALTH ALLIANCE

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OUR RIVERS OUR LiFBLOOD VOICES FOR THE MURRAY-DARLING

OUR RIVERS, OUR LiFBLOOD

A national plan is currently being developed to allocate water into the Murray-Darling river system, with legislation to be presented to Federal Parliament in early 2012. The Murray-Darling is the lifeblood of much of Australia's' agricultural production, contains unique biodiversity and is rich in national cultural heritage. However the Basin and the ecosystems it supports are at risk of further degradation if water extraction is allowed to continue at current levels. CAHA has joined this campaign to help highlight the importance of healthy ecosystems for human health.

CAHA Members and Supporters are encouraged to sign the [petition](#) for the campaign [Our Rivers Our Lifeblood: Voices of the Murray Darling](#).

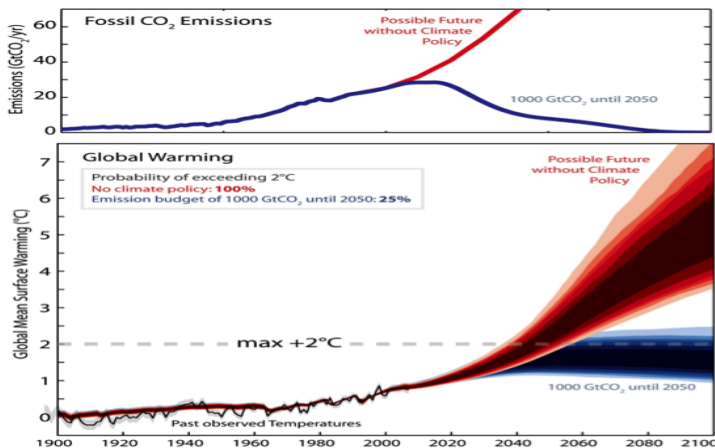
SAY YES, AUSTRALIA!

The public outcry following the announcement of the carbon price package is causing concern among policy makers and advocates like the Climate and Health Alliance that have welcomed the legislation, recognising that it is an important first step in developing a responsible climate policy for Australia.

CLIMATE AND HEALTH NEWS

What are the consequences if we fail to cut emissions?

CAHA representatives and members joined hundreds of scientists, researchers, academics, policymakers, media, and advocacy experts at the [Four Degrees: Australia in a Hot World](#) conference hosted by Melbourne University in July. The presenting scientists and researchers were unequivocal: a global warming average of four degrees would have dire consequences for human civilisation. The task of cutting emissions could not be more urgent – a failure to keep emissions within two degrees risks the onset of runaway climate change beyond which mitigation would be futile, leading climate scientist and conference keynote speaker Hans Joachim Schellnhuber said. Even two degrees is the wrong target, Schellnhuber said. “It is already too much.” He used the analogy of homeostasis for humans in describing the risk to planetary systems: “Two degrees of warming for the human body means a fever. If it rises more than four degrees, you’re dead. Same for the planet.”



(Image: climateinteractive.org)

CAHA will produce a summary report of the conference and the implications of its findings in coming weeks.

CAHA urges health professionals and other community members to publicly express their support for the policy package in order to maintain the necessary political support for it to pass into law later this year.

Write to your MP and tell them you support action on climate change! Sign up for updates from the Say Yes campaign [here](#).

MEDIA:

[Carbon package a good start but more needed](#)

The Climate and Health Alliance (CAHA) has welcomed the package on climate policy announced by the Prime Minister in Canberra yesterday and called on Australians to support the package in the nation's long term interests.

“The health and wellbeing of the Australian and global community depends on taking effective action on climate change,” said Fiona Armstrong, CAHA Convenor.

“The package as announced on Sunday represents an important first step in developing a responsible climate policy for Australia,” Ms Armstrong said.

[Health the victim of carbon price fuel exemption](#)

The exemption of fuel from the carbon price legislation is a blow to the nation's health, the Climate and Health Alliance said.

“Exempting fuels from the carbon price not only denies the community the health benefits of beginning a transition to cleaner, safer transport options, but it also ignores the significant contribution of transport emissions in Australia's greenhouse gas production,” CAHA Convenor Fiona Armstrong said.

EVENTS:

Climate Change and Public Health Seminar

The seminar is being organised by Monash University and will be held at the State Library of Victoria in Melbourne on 30 August. See the seminar program [here](#) for further details.

A conversation on climate change



Professor Ian Chubb, former vice chancellor at ANU, has been appointed Australia's new Chief Scientist. In the article from [The Conversation](#) Professor Chubb talks about science, climate deniers, and why science matters: read about it and see video [here](#).

NEWS

[Disease outbreaks among animals to increase](#)

Researchers at the University of Liverpool in the UK say climate change will lead to increased incidence of outbreaks of disease among animals as well as humans. Over 80,000 cases of the viral disease bluetongue occurring in the last decade in sheep and cattle in Europe are believed to be linked to warmer temperatures.

[Pollution from coal masks rate of warming increase](#)

Sulphur particles produced by burning coal are believed to be responsible for masking the effect of global warming by deflecting the sun's rays in Chinese cities, a new study published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* last month. Chinese authorities are now installing equipment to reduce sulphur emissions, a strategy that is expected to lead to spike in regional warming, researchers said.

Climate and Health Alliance to Partner in Global Climate and Health Seminar

The [Climate and Health Alliance](#) is to partner in the Global Climate and Health Summit in Durban, South Africa, to be held

[Health groups call for healthy Murray Darling](#)

The Climate and Health Alliance, together with other non government organisations and charities, has launched a campaign "Voices for the Murray-Darling" which is calling for the development of a plan for the Murray Darling Basin to revive the wetlands and rivers, with environmental flows based on credible science.

"We recognise that the health of the population ultimately depends on a healthy ecosystem. We cannot continue to degrade our ecosystems and expect no adverse consequences for human health and wellbeing," CAHA Convenor Fiona Armstrong said.



GREEN HEALTHCARE

[Green hospital to cut emissions and save \\$](#)

A new hospital in Dallas in the US will seek to incorporate sustainable principals to reduce the future impact of the facility on the environment and improve it amenity. The new Parkland Memorial Hospital will incorporate energy efficiency measures, sustainable materials, natural lighting and solar power, measures expected to reduce energy costs by more than 20%. Water use will also be reduced, and plug in stations provided for staff to recharge electric vehicles.

in parallel to [COP 17](#), the next Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on December 4 of this year. The Summit being organised by Health Care Without Harm (HCWH), the World Federation of Public Health Associations and the Climate and Health Council. Other partners include the World Medical Association, the International Council of Nurses and the International Medical Students Federation. The Summit will produce a Durban Declaration on climate and health and discuss the establishment of a global climate and health coalition.

REPORT

Critical Decade

The changes we make this decade to cut emissions and act on climate change will determine our future, the Climate Commission report affirmed last month.

“This decade is critical. Unless effective action is taken, the global climate may be so irreversibly altered we will struggle to maintain our present way of life. The choices we make this decade will shape the long-term climate future for our children and grandchildren,” the report’s Key Messages states. The Climate Commission website now addresses questions and provides readily accessible information regarding climate science; global, national, and regional impacts; international action and how carbon pricing works. For more information and details on upcoming Climate Commission community forums [here](#).

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS ON AUSTRALIA

The Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency (DCCEE) has released a series of factsheets on the impact of climate change in Australia. There is one for each state and territory and each includes a section on impacts of climate change on human health. The factsheets can be downloaded from the DCCEE website [here](#).

CLIMATE CHANGE NEAR YOU

The Union of Concerned Scientists has produced an interactive map to give people insight into climate impacts in their part of the globe. The [ClimateHotMap](#) identifies areas of high risk for heat waves, sea-level rise, flooding, melting glaciers, earlier spring arrival, coral reef bleaching, and the spread of disease around the globe, as well as providing links to available solutions.

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