



CLIMATE AND  
HEALTH  
ALLIANCE

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### **Health group warns of public health risk from low carbon price**

The Climate and Health Alliance has today called on the Multi Party Climate Change Committee (MPCCC) to develop an ambitious agenda for strong emissions reductions to reduce the health risks posed by current levels of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>.

Early reports of a low carbon price have alarmed the Alliance which has been calling for comprehensive climate policies in addition to a price on carbon that reflects the health and climate costs of using fossil fuels for energy generation and transport.

Climate and Health Alliance spokesperson Fiona Armstrong said ill health and deaths associated with fossil fuel use was costing the community billions of dollars annually from respiratory, cardiovascular and nervous system diseases caused by exposure to the extraction, transportation and combustion of coal, oil and gas.

"Cleaner, safer, and healthier energy and transport options exist," Ms Armstrong said. "We need to see a carbon price that will actually reduce emissions and reduce risks to people's health. That requires a price that will make clean renewable energy cost competitive with fossil fuels along with the removal of government subsidies to fossil fuels that prevent a level playing field among/between energy generation technologies."

A comprehensive suite of policies was required to reduce emissions at the rate indicated by the science, Ms Armstrong said.

"The Australian community is already experiencing the type of dramatic weather events we can expect to become increasingly common as the global temperature rises higher. Without the implementation of serious policies that will deliver dramatic reductions, our natural and human systems face unacceptable levels of risk. Even a strong carbon price is not enough.

"As a group concerned with the protection and promotion of human health, the Climate and Health Alliance is calling on all members of the MPCCC to commit to a carbon price that does not cave into the demands of polluters, but establishes a process for Australia to restore our position as a good global citizen and contribute to the earliest possible restoration of a safe climate."

For further information see CAHA's Briefing Paper: A price on carbon is good for health at [www.caha.org.au](http://www.caha.org.au)

**Media contact:** CAHA Convenor Fiona Armstrong [convener@caha.org.au](mailto:convener@caha.org.au) or 0438 900 005.