

URGENT **action needed on Greenhouse**

Very soon Federal Cabinet will be considering the question of setting targets for greenhouse gas emissions. As a first step, Victoria has accepted the target proposed at the international meeting in Toronto: a 20 per cent reduction in carbon dioxide emissions (compared with 1988 levels) by the year 2000. At least two countries, West Germany and Denmark are seriously considering more substantial reductions than the Toronto target by the year 2005.

Despite the fact that the studies by Deni Greene and by the National Institute of Economic and Industry Research show that meeting the Toronto target could benefit the economy substantially, mining and energy Ministers are actually foreshadowing an increase in CO₂ emissions.

Targets are not intended to be an end in themselves, but are an effective and efficient means of mobilising the community to achieve genuine emission reductions.

Unlike a vague general commitment, targets provide a serious focus for actions to reduce emissions. Used for planning purposes, targets provide a clear framework for exploring options and a basis for evaluating progress. They also act as goals for achievement.

At present, some Cabinet Ministers are undecided about targets. Please write now to the Prime Minister, Bob Hawke, and the following Federal Ministers: Ros Kelly, Minister of Environment, John Kerin, Minister of Primary Industries and Energy, Gareth Evans, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, (all c/- Parliament House, Canberra, 2600) urging them to set the earliest possible target dates for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

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