



CLIMATE AND
HEALTH
ALLIANCE

MEDIA RELEASE

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Health groups call on Baillieu to stick to emissions target

A national coalition of health groups is calling on the Victorian Premier, Ted Baillieu, to honour his commitment to a 20% by 2020 emissions reduction target for Victoria.

The Climate and Health Alliance said the target was an important commitment, given Victoria's very high per capita emissions, and must not be abandoned.

"Victoria's per capita emissions are among the highest in the world," CAHA Convenor Fiona Armstrong said.

"Limiting greenhouse gas emissions and beginning a rapid reduction is an important commitment for Victoria to begin to accept its fair share of the global obligation to cut emissions," Ms Armstrong said.

Recent media reports suggest the Premier is considering walking away from the bi-partisan commitment achieved in Victoria's previous parliamentary term, and legislated in the *Climate Change Act 2010*.

CAHA also said strategies to reduce emissions in Victoria would also bring important public health benefits and should be implemented to achieve a dual purpose – reducing climate risk and improving health.

"There are very significant health benefits available by moving away from fossil fuels," Ms Armstrong said.

"Shifting to clean renewable energy systems for electricity generation and transport will help reduce air pollution – a big contributor to cardiovascular disease, lung cancer, respiratory disease, asthma and allergies," Ms Armstrong said.

"The truth is, cutting emissions is an important public health strategy. There is strong evidence that emissions reductions provide a 'win-win-win' situation: beginning to accept our fair share of the global task to cut greenhouse gases emissions; improving air quality; and saving money through avoided ill health and productivity gains."

"There are no arguments for continuing to burn fossil fuels when it comes to community wellbeing and our future health," Ms Armstrong said.

"Mr Baillieu must not put the profits of polluters before the health and wellbeing of the public. We are calling on the Victoria Government to honour their 2010 commitment and act to protect and promote people's health."

CAHA members include: Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW); Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM); Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS); Australian Hospitals and Healthcare Association (AHHA); Australian Health Promotion Association (AHPA); Australian Institute of Health Innovation (AIHI); Australian Women's Health Network (AWHN); Australian Nursing Federation (ANF); Australian Psychological Society; Australian Rural Health Education Network (ARHEN); CRANAplus; Doctors for the Environment Australia (DEA); Doctors Reform Society; Friends of CAHA; Health Consumers' Network (Qld); Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA); Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP); North Yarra Community Health (NYCH); Services for Australian Rural and Remote Allied Health (SARRAH); Women's Health in the North; World Vision.

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