

# We need a strong Climate Change Bill for Victoria

The state ALP has committed to introducing a Climate Bill for Victoria. This will be released before the state election in November. ***With the collapse of the federal governments' ETS, a strong Victorian Bill has become even more important.***

There are now climate Bills in the UK, Scotland, South Australia and elsewhere.



In the UK, Radiohead front man Thom Yorke launched the 'Big Ask' campaign, which called successfully for a UK climate Bill. Jude Law, James Blunt and Razorlight's Johnny Borrell all supported the campaign, as did the Queen. Other prominent people supporting the Bill included Stephen Merchant, co-writer of The Office, band Super Furry Animals, musician Kate Rusby and Matt Black from Coldcut.

David Miliband, British Labour politician, who was the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs in the UK government from 2007 to 2010 was an early advocate for the Bill.

*Thousands of people joined the campaign in support of a Climate Bill in the UK ---->*

It eventually gained cross party support.

In Scotland, a range of authors, like Iain Banks, and comedians, actors and musicians came forward.

***We need you – as someone who understands the need to act decisively on climate change - to step forward and endorse the idea of a strong, whole-of-government Bill here in Victoria. ALP MPs, please speak out !***



If they can create strong Climate Bills in the UK, Scotland, and Ontario, then we can here.

This is our best chance to get it right.

Please make your feelings known to the Premier and other members of Cabinet today. There are further details here: <http://www.melbourne.foe.org.au/>

Thanks,

Friends of the Earth Melbourne



*"We have passed an historic, ground-breaking bill that sets an international example that we hope others will follow."*

*- Rt Hon Alex Salmond MSP, First Minister of Scotland, June 25, 2009*

*"Our responsibility is to move beyond the initial steps of recent years and act boldly to protect our planet and secure our future".*

*- Premier John Brumby*

# What should be in the Climate Bill

From the time that the first Bill was proposed in the UK (2005) until the Scottish Bill was adopted (2009), each bill has been an improvement on the last.

This is partly because the climate science is becoming ever clearer on the depth of the cuts that are required if we are to avoid dangerous climate change.

It is imperative that the Victorian Bill be benchmarked on, and exceed, the Scottish Bill.

Features of the Scottish Bill include:

- a 42% reduction in greenhouse emissions against 1990 levels by 2020
- a target of 80% reductions by 2050
- annual targets for reduction in emissions
- regular reporting to Parliament on actions taken and whether targets have been met
- it covers the 6 key greenhouse gases
- has independent scientific advice on targets
- it has powers to impose actions to meet targets
- it has a significant focus on public engagement and behaviour change, helping the community identify how to take effective action to reduce their emissions
- it has a global perspective by committing Scotland to live within a 'fair share' of global emissions
- strategies for adaptation and building resilience
- it covers all emissions produced in Scotland (including aviation)
- it has a strong focus on energy efficiency, and hence will drive strong growth in new green jobs
- it will require overall land use strategies to be developed for agriculture, forestry and other land uses

Many of these tie in well with existing Victorian government initiatives – including the Climate Communities program and 'green jobs' package.

You can find details on the Bill here:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Environment/climatechange/scotlands-action/climatechangeact>

**A strong Bill is the best way to set Victoria onto the path of a low emissions future, and green groups will be judging it as such.** We urge you to do everything in your power to ensure that this Bill is benchmarked on the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 as an absolute minimum.

A strong Bill will be well received by the many Victorians concerned about climate change.

The Victorian Bill should:

- set emissions reductions targets of at least 50% by 2020, and 95% by 2050 against 1990 levels.  
\* commit Victoria to mandated annual reductions to achieve this.

For full details on what should be included in the Victorian Bill please check here:

<http://www.melbourne.foe.org.au/>

Climate science clearly tells us that the longer we delay, the more action on climate change will cost. Paying for the consequences will be more expensive than preventing it. We urge you to make low impact responses to the water crisis and decisive action on climate change some of your core priorities in the coming election.

