

MEDIA RELEASE



Engineers Australia backs higher emission reduction targets

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In a submission to the Climate Change Authority's caps and targets review, Engineers Australia's Sustainable Engineering Society has called for the Authority to examine higher emission reduction targets.

"Engineers Australia has recommended that the Climate Change Authority (CCA) investigates targets of 25 percent emissions reductions and above as appropriate trajectories that Australia should target by 2020," said Chair of the Sustainable Engineering Society, Lara Harland.

"While the CCA review suggests that there has historically been action taken by successive Australian governments in this climate action space, it would currently appear that bilateral agreements on our emissions targets fall short of what is necessary for Australia to contribute appropriately to strong global action.

"Similar to what has been witnessed in the European Union over the past decade, we can expect that demand will come from business for strong and binding commitments that can be exempt from the political cycle and provide stability.

"Under the *Clean Energy Act 2011*, Australia has committed to support the climate change action target of limiting global warming to 2 degrees Celsius, following an international agreement reached during the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change's Copenhagen Accord in 2009.

"Recent studies from scientists within the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, including Climate Change Authority board member Professor David Karoly, have re-affirmed that our likelihood of remaining within this 2 degree limit is fast diminishing, with the average of three models presented in Karoly's recent paper resting between 3 and 4 degrees increase to global average temperature if current emission trends continue.

"It is hoped that the CCA will be able to provide a framework where industry can receive assurance through regular short-term targets that reflect the strong action required to keep atmospheric carbon below the levels considered dangerous for human interference in the climate system.

"Engineers Australia commends the CCA's work in development of a policy through which Australia can link its caps and targets to a scientifically determined 2 degree temperature increase limit," Ms Harland said.

The full Sustainable Engineering Society submission to the Climate Change Authority can be downloaded from seng.org.au/node/452

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