

# Garnaut Climate Change Review



## About the review

The Garnaut Climate Change Review is an independent study by Professor Ross Garnaut that was commissioned by Kevin Rudd (as leader of the Opposition) and the State and Territory governments in April 2007. Following the November 2007 election, the Commonwealth Government joined the Review.

The Review will examine the impacts of climate change on the Australian economy and report on:

- the likely effect of human induced climate change on Australia's economy, environment, and water resources in the absence of effective national and international efforts to substantially cut greenhouse gas emissions;
- the possible effects of international policy reform on climate change, and the costs and benefits of various international and Australian policy interventions on Australian economic activity;

- the role that Australia can play in the development and implementation of effective international policies on climate change; and
- recommendations for medium to long-term policy options for Australia, and the time path for their implementation to produce the best possible outcomes for Australia.

The review will consider policies that reduce:

- the impact of climate change;
- the costs of adjustment to climate change; and

- adverse effects on Australian incomes as a result of climate change policy responses.

## Community consultation

Forums have been held around Australia in 2008 for public participation and stakeholder input into the review process:

- Climate Change: Land Management, Agriculture and Forestry
- Financial Services for Managing Risk: Climate Change and Carbon Trading



- What is the science telling us: is there a need to develop new emissions scenarios?
- Research and development – low emission energy technologies
- Transport, Planning and the Built Environment
- Presentation of the Draft Report.

## Key milestones

### Interim Report

The Garnaut Climate Change Review released an Interim Report in February 2008. The report provided early insights from the Review's work to date as a basis for discussion and input into the Draft Report in July and the Final Report (due 30 September 2008). The Interim Report included some initial considerations for the design of Australia's Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) due to come into effect in 2010.

### Emissions Trading Scheme Discussion Paper

A discussion paper was released on 20 March 2008, putting forward for community discussion a set of principles and design features for the delivery of an efficient and effective emissions trading scheme (ETS). The Queensland Government made a submission

(available at [www.garnautreview.org.au](http://www.garnautreview.org.au)) to the Garnaut Review in response to the ETS discussion paper.

Key features of Queensland's position included:

- Queensland Government is broadly supportive of the general scheme design principles outlined in the Discussion Paper
- there is a case for some form of assistance to energy generators, on equity grounds but that the form of the assistance must be carefully considered to ensure that Australia still achieves its emissions targets
- support for compensation to trade exposed emissions intensive industries
- support for development and deployment of low emissions technologies
- support for a national program to promote energy efficiency
- identifying that Queensland stands to be more affected by an ETS than other states due to our energy intensive industries, large agriculture sectors as well as a disperse and rapidly growing population
- acknowledgement that Queensland also stands to be adversely affected by the impacts of climate change.

## Garnaut Climate Change Review Draft Report

A major milestone of the Review of Climate Change by Professor Ross Garnaut occurred on Friday 4 July with the release of the Review's Draft Report. The Report is available for download at [www.garnautreview.org.au](http://www.garnautreview.org.au)

The 530 page report includes chapters on the following:

- Impacts of climate change on Australia
- The modelled economic consequences of climate change in Australia
- The wider costs and benefits of climate change mitigation in Australia
- Australian mitigation: overview of the policy challenge
- An Australian Emissions Trading Scheme
- Income distribution effects of climate change mitigation policy
- The energy transformation.

A Supplementary Draft Report will be released at the end of August with the Review's economic modelling results. New chapters on roles and responsibilities between the Commonwealth and the states, adaptation, and economy-wide transition will be included in the Final Report.

## Garnaut Climate Change Final Report

The Final Report is due to be released late September 2008 and will provide an assessment of Australia's best options for meeting the challenges ahead.

## More information

### Garnaut Climate Change Review

[www.garnautreview.org.au](http://www.garnautreview.org.au)

### Climate change in Queensland

[www.climatechange.qld.gov.au](http://www.climatechange.qld.gov.au)



(Image sourced from The Great Barrier Reef Marine Authority)