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**EAGA**

EASTERN ALLIANCE FOR  
GREENHOUSE ACTION  
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30<sup>th</sup> May 2013

Dear Ms Harris,

**Re: Caps and Target Review (April 2013)**

The Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (EAGA) welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Climate Change Authority's Caps and Targets Issues Paper (April 2013). EAGA is a formal Alliance of seven Councils in Melbourne's East, including:

- City of Boroondara
- Knox City Council
- Maroondah City Council
- City of Monash
- City of Stonnington
- City of Whitehorse
- Yarra Ranges Council

The Alliance is committed to delivering mitigation and adaptation projects and advocating for initiatives that promote sustainable, low carbon communities. Consequently, we urge the Government to take action that is consistent and proportionate with the voluntary measures currently being undertaken by Councils, businesses and communities across the country. This means ensuring that Australia adopts more stringent emissions reduction targets and caps that are in line with stabilising atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>-e concentrations and protecting Australia's national interest.

Specifically, EAGA recommends Australia's emission reduction target should be increased to a minimum of 17% by 2020 from 2000 levels, to be in line with the recommendations made by Ross Garnaut<sup>1</sup> and the Climate Commission<sup>2</sup>. EAGA acknowledges that this target is still short of the optimum 25% target (by 2020 from 2000 levels) recommended by the most recent climate science and supports this more stringent target.

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<sup>1</sup> Garnaut, R, 2011, *The Garnaut Review 2011: Australia in the Global Response to Climate Change*, CUP, Melbourne and the Grattan Institute [event](#).

<sup>2</sup> Climate Commission, 2013, *The Critical Decade: Global Action Building on Climate Change*, Commonwealth of Australia, Canberra.



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A more ambitious target is important as the current 5% target will mean many low cost emission reduction opportunities will remain uncaptured and the overall cost to the economy will be higher in the long term.

EAGA also urges the Government to adjust the caps to recognise and account for voluntary action taken at the regional level. This includes the requirement for the adoption of a transparent process to retire any Kyoto units that are freed up by voluntary measures (such as the purchase of GreenPower) so that such reduction measures are additional to Australia's international obligations. This is critical for Councils, business and households wishing to purchase GreenPower (or surrender of RECs) as a carbon reduction measure and make subsequent assertions regarding the environmental benefits of these actions. In addition, mechanisms are also required to account for other voluntary measures such as energy efficiency and the generation of low emissions energy on site.

The EAGA is happy and willing to work with the Government and the Climate Change Authority to ensure consistent and robust approaches to emission reduction which represents the best value proposition for Australia and the global climate.

Kind regards,

Ossie Martinz  
Acting Executive Chair  
Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action  
Director, Infrastructure Services  
Monash City Council