



MEDIA RELEASE

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AUSTRALIA'S TOP CLIMATE SCIENTISTS CALL FOR URGENT ACTION

Eight of Australia's top climate scientists - with over 200 years of climate science experience between them - will meet with Australia's policy makers in Canberra today with an urgent call for action.

The scientists are members of Climate Scientists Australia, a newly formed independent group of some of Australia's world-leading climate scientists who want decision-makers to rely on the best science when determining Australia's response to climate change.

"The science is clear – there is a compelling case for urgent action," the group's spokesperson Professor David Griggs (CEO ClimateWorks Australia) said.

"The latest international climate change research is showing that it is as important to consider the cumulative impact of CO₂ emissions as long-term emission reduction targets. Because carbon dioxide hangs around in the air for 100 years, the more we emit now the more is going to accumulate in the atmosphere. This means that the slower we reduce emissions, the harder it will be to reach a temperature target. We need urgent action now," Professor Griggs said.

While not an advocacy or lobby group, Professor Griggs said the leading scientists came together to provide politicians with one impartial scientific voice.

"Our policy makers have a very hard task in front of them in deciding on the best targets and best policies for responding to the threat of climate change. We will not be telling them how to do their job, but we will be providing them with the best science to base their decisions on."

The group will be meeting with individual MPs and Senators today ahead of voting on Australia's Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme, and will present a lunchtime briefing to all interested MPs and Senators.

The 13 members of Climate Scientists Australia are: Professors Nathan Bindoff (University of Tasmania), Matthew England (University of NSW), Dave Griggs (Monash University), Ann Henderson-Sellers (Macquarie University), Ove Hoegh-Guldberg (University of Queensland), Lesley Hughes (Macquarie University), Roger Jones (Victoria University), David Karoly (University of Melbourne), Amanda Lynch (Monash University), Tony McMichael (Australian National University), Neville Nicholls (Monash University), Andy Pitman (University of NSW), and Will Steffen (Australian National University).

“Collectively as a group we have done more than 200 years of scientific research on climate change and have contributed to national and international work on this topic,” Professor Griggs said.

“We have no doubt that it is already happening, and are worried about the potential impacts on Australia and Australians if emissions of greenhouse gases are not reduced as a matter of urgency,” Professor Griggs said.