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Minister for Climate Change and Water

## **Long road ahead to a climate solution**

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When it comes to climate change, one thing is certain - there is no quick fix. It is the challenge of our generation and we will have to travel a long road to solve it.

At the weekend in Bali, after marathon negotiations, the world drew up a roadmap to help us on our way. Like any good map, this one does five important things.

First, it reminds us of the conditions we are facing.

This year, the United Nations' climate change science body released a four part report that clearly spelled out the scientific evidence for climate change.

It also painted a picture of how it will affect us if we sit by and do nothing. The roadmap agreed on in Bali accepts this science.

Second, the map shows us where we are starting our journey.

The world's developed countries, except the U.S., have agreed to meet specific targets for reducing their emissions under the Kyoto Protocol.

Two weeks ago, as the first act of the Rudd Government, Australia ratified the Kyoto Protocol. However, those targets expire in 2012.

Essentially, the roadmap shows us the way forward from Kyoto.

Third, the roadmap shows us our destination. The global community has agreed on the goal of avoiding dangerous human-induced climate change.

To do this, the world needs a second global agreement on climate change to follow on from the Kyoto Protocol in 2013. It will need to include new emissions reduction targets.

And for the globe overall, emissions cuts will need to be deeper and more effective than under Kyoto.

Fourth, it shows us the different routes we can take to reach our destination. The Bali Roadmap is flexible and includes all countries.

There are still a number of possible routes to our shared destination. Importantly, it will help us plan a route that all countries can take and that will actually get us where we need to go.

Finally, this roadmap tells us how long our journey will take. Building a global agreement between almost 200 countries is a long and complex process.

We have two years.

The global community must reach agreement by 2009 so countries have time to implement the laws and policies needed to meet their commitments for 2013 and beyond.

Now, for the first time, the world has come together to agree on the need to tackle climate change.

Significantly, the U.S. has shifted its position and will be part of these negotiations.

The U.S. joined other developed countries in agreeing to negotiate on specific actions and commitments – including emissions reduction targets - under the Bali Roadmap.

Among the other major issues to be addressed with this new roadmap is deforestation.

We must find ways to reduce emissions that result from the loss of the world's forests, and ensure that forests are managed sustainably.

Long-overdue recognition has also been given to adaptation – helping people adapt to the unavoidable impacts of climate change, such as rising sea levels and changing weather patterns.

Over the next two years, Australia will continue to work within the community of nations to deliver long-term solutions to climate change.

It is a global problem and it needs a global solution, with developed and developing countries all doing their bit.

But we will also do what needs to be done at home, with decisive action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase the use of renewable energy.

Our planet won't wait.