



MEDIA RELEASE

Senator the Hon Penny Wong

Minister for Climate Change and Water

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CLIMATE CHANGE REPORT CARD SHOWS

RUDD GOVERNMENT HAS AUSTRALIA ON TARGET

A new report card shows the policies of the Rudd Government have helped put Australia on track to meet its targeted reductions in greenhouse gas emissions under the Kyoto Protocol.

Minister for Climate Change and Water, Senator Penny Wong, today released projections of Australia's greenhouse gas emissions to 2020, including an analysis of the impact of the Rudd Government's new climate change policies.

"It shows that the Rudd Government's policies, such as increasing the use of renewable energy, will trigger much greater emissions reductions in the longer term than had been forecast in 2006, under the previous Government," Senator Wong said.

"By 2020, Australia's emissions will be 120 per cent of 1990 levels. That is a reduction of 38 million tonnes on the 2006 forecast of 127 per cent – 20 million tonnes more than if we hadn't expanded the Renewable Energy Target.

"The short term outlook is also better. The last report card, in 2006, had Australia tracking at one per cent over our Kyoto target.

"This analysis shows the Rudd Government has Australia right on target, with emissions at 108 per cent of 1990 levels for the period 2008-12.

"The Rudd Government's drive to ensure 20 per cent of Australia's electricity supply is from renewable energy by 2020 will reduce our emissions by an extra 4 million tonnes annually in the Kyoto period."

Senator Wong said the new projections did not include the potential impact of an emissions trading scheme, given its final design was still being determined. Emissions trading will be introduced in 2010.

"We recognise there is much more to be done. A national system of emissions trading will establish a platform to help us achieve further reductions in greenhouse emissions."

The Rudd Government ratified the Kyoto Protocol in December as its first act. The Protocol will take effect for Australia in March 2008.

"Ratifying the Kyoto Protocol told the world that Australia is committed to taking responsibility for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. This report card shows we are delivering on that commitment."

Tracking to the Kyoto Target is normally released annually. In December, Senator Wong announced that she had asked her Department to include the impact of the new Government's policies, so that it would be more informative and up to date. The report card is available at: www.climatechange.gov.au/projections