

# CLIMATE CHANGE

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## Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS)

*“The CFMEU has long recognised that global warming is one of the biggest issues of our era – a big issue for the global community, for the survival of species and ecosystems, and for the future of our members and their jobs. It’s why we have been active on the issue since 1990.*

*Our policy centres on the need to massively reduce greenhouse gases being released into the atmosphere. Our policy recognises that coal mining and use for power generation is a major part of the world’s energy supply, and that this will be the case for generations to come. So emissions from coal mining and use must be reduced.*

*We support:*

*The ratification of the Kyoto Protocol – the international treaty with targets for greenhouse gas emission reduction – so that Australia can participate fully in internationally agreed measures to tackle global warming.*

*A large increase in Australia’s Minimum Renewable Target (MRET) beyond the original 2% to 20% by 2020 – so that we have a more diverse and resilient electricity supply industry better able to deal with the challenges of increasingly stringent greenhouse gas reduction targets.*

*A complementary Carbon Capture & Storage (CCS) Target of 5% of electricity supply in 2020. This is to expedite the demonstration and commercialisation of CCS technologies and associated high efficiency coal use technologies so that emissions to the atmosphere from coal use can be massively reduced. Because the first large-scale demonstrations of these new technologies will be relatively expensive, there is a need for a CCS Target (similar to the MRET) to ensure that low-emission fossil fuel technologies can sell their product into national electricity markets.*

*The introduction of a greenhouse gas emissions trading regime so that those who can reduce emissions most easily are encouraged to do so, and so that all major emitters are focused on producing their goods and services in the way that minimises nett emissions.*

*The establishment of a CCS Taskforce – led by the Federal Government, and including other levels of government, and stakeholders such as industry, unions and research institutions – to champion the intensive effort required to enable coal and other fossil fuels to massively reduce their emissions.*

*Meeting the challenge of climate change will require all levels and sectors of society to shoulder some of the burden of major change. We must all learn to live and work differently. The challenge must be met equitably and fairly if it is to win the widespread community support essential for success.”*