

Submission for
Senate Select Committee on Climate Policy

A core of Australia's leading climate scientists signed the *2007 Bali Climate Declaration by Scientists*. <http://www.ccrc.unsw.edu.au/news/2007/Bali.html>

Australian signatories included Dr. Ian Allison, Professor Nathan Bindoff, Professor Mike Archer, Dr. Pep Canadell, Dr. John Church, Professor Matthew England, Professor Ian Enting, Dr. Roger Francey, Professor Ann Henderson-Sellers, Professor Lesley Hughes, Professor Amanda H. Lynch, Dr. Bryant McAvaney, Dr. Trevor J. McDougall, Professor Tony McMichael, Dr. Ben McNeil, Professor Neville Nicholls, Professor Andy Pitman, Dr. Michael Raupach, Dr. Stephen R. Rintoul, Professor Will Steffen, and Dr. Ian G. Watterson.

Based on the scientific understanding at the time, this declaration advocated that global greenhouse gas emissions be reduced by *at least* 50% below their 1990 levels by the year 2050. The declaration went on to state that in the long run, greenhouse gas concentrations need to be stabilised at a level well below 450 ppm (parts per million; measured in CO₂-equivalent concentration). The declaration stated that in order to stay below 2°C global warming, global emissions must peak and decline in the next 10 to 15 years. Full details are available at www.ccrc.unsw.edu.au/bali

Australia is highly vulnerable to extremes in climate, including bushfires, droughts, floods, and heat-waves. Many of our iconic national treasures and ecosystems, such as the Great Barrier Reef, are extremely vulnerable to climate change and/or ocean acidification. Australia's long-term national interests are best served by a global agreement that leads to deep reductions in atmospheric greenhouse gas emissions across the highest emitting nations. To leverage such an agreement Australia must play a proportionate role. Many of the required measures will lead to stimulus and growth in several of the nation's key economic sectors, including renewable energies and building efficiencies. The costs to Australia of implementing such measures are modest compared to the potentially massive long-term costs of adaptation to climate change.

This submission is not written on behalf of the Bali Declaration signatory list; it is written and submitted as the personal view of one of its signatories, Professor Matthew England.

Professor Matthew England