



MEDIA RELEASE

EMBARGOED: Midday, Sunday 9 August 2009

“DINOSAURS” URGED TO EVOLVE AND SUPPORT CLEAN ENERGY JOBS

Welfare, union, environment, and research organisations today launched a national multi-media campaign calling on “dinosaurs” in politics and business to stop blocking urgent climate action in Australia, saying this is holding up the creation of hundreds of thousands of new clean energy jobs.

“Urgent policies are needed to unlock billions of dollars of investment and deliver a just, fair and decisive transition to a clean energy economy,” said campaign spokesman John Connor, The Climate Institute CEO, at the Parliament House launch today.

“In a world turning to clean energy and technology, Australian industries are in danger of being left behind. Some dinosaurs in Australian politics and business are blocking climate action that will grow the hundreds of thousands of clean energy jobs we need now more than ever.

“It’s time for these dinosaurs to evolve.”

Key facts about the global clean energy economy include:

- In 2008 alone, US\$155 billion was invested in new clean energy sources, representing a four-fold increase since 2004 and for the first time outstripping investments in fossil fuel technologies.¹
- Worldwide, the renewable energy sector already employs an estimated 2.3 million people – more than the total number employed directly by the oil and gas industry.²
- All credible economic research, including that used by big polluters, shows that Australian jobs and the economy will grow even with significant carbon pollution reductions³.

The campaign, backed by The Climate Institute, the ACTU, Australian Council Of Social Service, the Australian Conservation Foundation and WWF, is launching as Parliamentary

¹ UNEP, SEFI and New Energy Finance (2009), *Global Trends in Sustainable Energy Investment 2009: Analysis of Trends and Issues in the Financing of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency*, available online at: <http://sefi.unep.org/english/globaltrends2009.html>.

² Ban Ki-moon, “Green growth is essential to any stimulus”, *Financial Times*, 17 February 2009.

³ Before a recent Senate Inquiry Mitch Hooke from the Minerals Council of Australia acknowledged ‘we know we will continue to grow’





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debate is set to resume on the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme and Renewable Energy Target.

However, the multimedia campaign, which includes national advertising, online communications, and public information sessions, will extend until the international climate change negotiations in Copenhagen in December and beyond.

“We know that the shift to a clean energy economy requires assistance to workers and families. All the research shows we can have a prosperous economy and avoid the worst impacts of climate change if we get cracking now and that the longer we wait the more it will cost,” said Mr Connor.

The campaign also links to a newly created website www.cleanenergyjobs.com.au built in partnership with GetUp, and provides facts, research and case studies on clean energy jobs.

“There has been too much delay and too much squabbling between all politicians. Urgent action is needed this year to strengthen climate policies, grow a clean energy economy and help achieve an effective global climate agreement.

“We are saying to all politicians and business it is time to evolve, and calling on all Australians to help them evolve,” Mr Connor said.

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY AND MEDIA CONFERENCE

WHAT: National campaign launch – picture opportunity and media conference

WHEN: 11am Sunday, 9 August 2009

WHERE: Authorised Assembly Area, on the lawn in front of the main entrance to Parliament House, Canberra

WHO: John Connor, CEO The Climate Institute; Sharan Burrow, ACTU President; Don Henry, Exec Director Australian Conservation Foundation, Paul Toni WWF Manager; Clare Martin, CEO ACOSS

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