

Comments from Doctors for the Environment on Labor's Climate Action Plan, 1 April 2018

DEA's National Co-Chair, Professor Kingsley Faulkner:

The ALP Climate Change Action Plan launched today is designed to establish a framework to meet Australia's long term emissions reduction obligation. It is a technical document rather than a comprehensive climate change action plan.

It fails to make any mention of a strategy to address the health consequences of climate change or its multiple environmental impacts.

It would have been more accurate not to call it a Climate Change Action Plan and just call it the ALP Emissions Reduction Plan. Its attributes could then be debated accordingly.

The present and predicted future health and environmental consequences of climate change are too urgent and devastating to be swept aside in the lead up to this Federal election on the brink of the critical decade ahead.

Dr Graeme McLeay:

Some good things in ALP announcement today:

Electric Vehicles 50% of new cars by 2030

Fuel efficiency standard 105 gms/l

Tougher emission standards for big polluters

Control of land clearing (and deforestation?)

Ruled out using Kyoto credits

Labor's climate policy announcement Monday is designed to not frighten the horses but takes some important steps in the right direction. It addresses transport emissions in part, and importantly will slow Australia's rampant land clearing. Heavy industry may not like tougher emission limits but will appreciate certainty which has been sadly lacking. It suggests a pathway to 45% reduction in emissions by 2030 is doable and maybe even seen as unambitious before long.