

# Climate Summit Canberra 31 Jan - 3 Feb 2009

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Five hundred people. Over 150 climate action groups. Everyone empowered and inspired,. Confident that we can do it, that we can build a movement of hundreds and thousands of Australians, linked internationally, working together for a safe climate, repowering the world with 100% renewable energy, accepting the challenge of not just zero carbon emissions, but drawing carbon out of the atmosphere.

Not accepting a future of a world buckling and convulsing with catastrophic climate change.

Christine Milne received a standing ovation with her words quoting Einstein – the problems we face cannot be solved with the same level of thinking that created them. We need new solutions, new politics. The old politics, the Liberal politics of capital, the ALP politics of labour – and capital! – won't do it. Christine called on people to simply not vote for people who don't recognise the climate emergency. At the opening of the summit, Clive Hamilton had said much the same. 'To expect leadership from the old parties is a delusion. A campaign of radical activism is needed , a vigorous popular campaign, determined and persistent, savvy, brave.'

But it was the main game of the summit that was the most inspiring. Five hundred delegates agreeing on a vision and objectives for the safe climate campaign.

"We face a climate emergency. Our vision is to work together at emergency speed to restore in a just way a safe climate in time for all people, all species and all generations."

Agreeing on objectives for 2009 – for the CPRS to be scrapped, because its just too corrupted to be rescued. To build community support for a just transition to repowering Australia with 100% renewable energy, creating green jobs in doing so, and for Australia to head for beyond zero emissions, as part of a global effort towards stabilising co2 levels in the atmosphere at 300ppm. (See the climate summit website <http://www.climatesummit.org.au/campaignstrategyand-developmentstreamoutcomes> for the full outcomes of the summit.)

These goals and targets are both hugely ambitious and chillingly necessary. They are what are needed for a safe climate. We have to go for them. They are our future.

2009 is the year for building the movement – climate action groups all over the country will be out there listening, talking, inspiring, encouraging action – practical and political. A plan was hatched to punctuate the year with four key public events – actions around the CPRS in March, major rallies in cities across Australia in June, "climate camps" focused on climate destroying industries in September, and then a week of action around the Copenhagen conference at the end of the year.

Then 2010 is election year. Some summittees still hold out hope that with a big enough movement, with civil disobedience, courageous direct action and hundreds of thousands of Mums and Dads that Labor will listen. Us Greens aren't so optimistic. Experience tells us that Christine Milne and Clive Hamilton are correct. A new politics is needed, which is what we have been building for the last two decades. I look forward to the campaigns for Melbourne, Sydney, Fremantle, Batman. I dream of Greens holding the balance of power in both the House of Representatives and the Senate. Then, with the backing of the hundreds of thousands of Australians, negotiating about forming government. 'You want our support? Then commit to a safe climate. Break free of the thrall of the coal industry, and start the transition to clean green jobs in a clean green future.'

The time is now. The opportunity is ours. There's no time for delay. Courage, passion, collaboration, commitment. We can do it. Yes we can!