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Media Release **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

ONLY 33% OF AUSTRALIANS SUPPORT AN ETS

Australian Climate Science Coalition (ACSC) Executive Director Max Rheese today called on the Federal Government to abandon the “Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme” (CPRS) and investigate alternative measures for dealing with climate variability.

“According to new research only 33 per cent of Australians support the CPRS while 51 per cent oppose it. This is a substantial decline since October last year when support was at 40 per cent and opposition at 42 per cent.”

“The federal government is losing the political high ground on global warming as the public deserts the ‘Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme’. It is in the national interest to find alternative policies which will have public support,” Mr Rheese said.

New research commissioned by the ACSC shows that public perceptions had changed significantly over the last six months. The ACSC supports a national climate policy, geared to adaption, rather than the current ‘global warming policy’.

Separate polling for BBC News released on Friday, shows that only 26 per cent of those in the UK believe in the theory of global warming caused by man. This is a massive collapse in support of 15 per cent since November 2009.

“The debacle in Copenhagen demonstrated the futility of Australia adopting a ‘go-it-alone’ strategy. It also demonstrated that the government’s catastrophic view of climate change was not shared by the large emitting nations.

“Public faith has also been shaken in the IPCC’s version of the science with the release of the ‘Climategate’ emails showing key climate researchers manipulating data, breaking the law by refusing FOI requests, and standing-over colleagues who questioned their research outcomes or methodology.

“In addition a number of other dubious claims have been shown to have been incorporated in IPCC reports sourced from green lobbyists, newspaper reports and even in one case a student essay.”

Mr Rheese said that the public was also becoming better educated about the long-term variability and nature of climate through works by sceptical scientists like Professor Ian Plimer, and the current tour by British peer Christopher Monckton.

“The Australian Climate Science Coalition believes that climate always changes and government policies should be robust enough to deal with issues of warming and cooling, to focus on areas where they can make a significant difference to the lives of individual Australians.

“The CPRS is a complicated financial scheme that will tax all Australians, achieve no reductions in CO2 emissions and send Australian jobs overseas.”

Key points in the research were:

- 33% support the CPRS, down from 40% last October, and 51% now oppose, compared to 42% last year.
- 47% of voters are not prepared to pay any more for electricity because of climate change, mostly because they do not believe climate change poses a substantial risk.
- Only 30% of voters were prepared to pay more than \$20 per month for electricity to avoid climate change.
- In January this year 57% of Australians believed CO2 is a greenhouse gas and 23% disagree. In October last year the figures were 62% and 23%.
- 54% of Australians agreed in January this year that manmade emissions were contributing to global warming, while 29% disagreed.
- 49% of Australians agree now that there is a risk of catastrophic climate change, down from 55% in October last year. Those who disagree are currently at 33%, up from 31% last year.
- 51% believe Australia should take unilateral action on climate change and 42% do not.

The research was conducted by The National Forum, drawing on data from their regular quarterly polling. The full report can be downloaded from www.auscsc.org.au

[BBC News climate change poll Feb 2010](#)

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The Australian Climate Science Coalition, is an affiliate of the [International Climate Science Coalition](#) and was formed by a group of scientists and professional people interested in encouraging continued scientific research into the world's climate and in particular into the effects of increased concentrations of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. The mission of the ACSC is to promote open scientific debate on the causes of climate change. ACSC is an apolitical, not for profit, science advisory group. For more information about the ACSC, visit www.auscsc.org.au

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