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Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CLIMATE REALISTS ALARMED AT GOVT RESPONSE TO FIELDING

Senator Penny Wong's response to three questions put by Senator Steve Fielding has concerned the four scientists who accompanied him to his meeting with Senator Wong.

"The government used data from the widely discredited 'hockey stick' graph that even the IPCC no longer uses" said Professor Bob Carter, science advisor to the Australian Climate Science Coalition.

The government appears to be unaware that the IPCC was too embarrassed to use these data in its 2007 Fourth Assessment Report and is still displaying the graph on its climate change website www.climatechange.gov.au/science/faq/question2.html

The 'hockey stick' graph was used seven times in the IPCC 2001 Third Assessment Report, but quietly dropped without explanation in the 2007 report after being labelled "statistical chicanery" by independent researchers.

The first question put by Senator Fielding was: *Is it the case that CO₂ increased by 5% since 1998 whilst global temperature cooled over the same period?* The question drew a government response that, for the first time, acknowledged the anomalies caused by natural variability in the climate.

Fielding's assessment of the situation was, "Given the Climate Change Minister's response, Senator Fielding does not believe that any politician can vote with any confidence for this (carbon dioxide trading) legislation".

A key point argued by the ACSC, and many other scientists, is that natural climate change is the main hazard that we need to prepare for; for if we are prepared for natural change, then any human-driven change that may emerge (but has not yet) will be easily coped with.

"Obviously an emissions trading scheme will have no effect on natural climate change. The government should scrap plans for emissions trading legislation, and instead prepare a comprehensive national climate policy that will actually help the country adapt to the all-too-real dangers of natural climate change" concluded Professor Carter.

- ENDS -

An assessment of Senator Wong's reply can be found here:

<http://www.auscsc.org.au/images/PDF/wongsreplytoquestions.pdf>

The ACSC, is an affiliate of the [International Climate Science Coalition](http://www.internationalclimatecoalition.org) 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. For more information about the ACSC, visit www.auscsc.org.au ACSC Executive Director: Max Rheese 0428 621 320 info@auscsc.org.au