



Save the Nature of the Kimberley

environs
KIMBERLEY
INC

PO Box 2281 BROOME WA 6725

Phone: 08 91921922

Fax: 08 91925538

Email: envrkimb@broome.wt.com.au

Web: www.environskimberley.org.au

MEDIA RELEASE

March 3, 2009

Rudd Government failure on climate bad news for the Kimberley

“A total failure, and bad news for the Kimberley.” This was how Environs Kimberley Director Martin Pritchard described the Australian Government’s Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS), following a public information session at the Roebuck Bay Hotel, Broome, via a Sky Channel broadcast on Thursday, 26th February.

Minister for Climate Change, Penny Wong, gave the opening address, which was followed by a description of the CPRS by the Department of Climate Change’s Blair Comley.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has said that to avoid dangerous climate change, developed nations must cut their emissions by at least 25-40% by 2050. The Australian Government’s target of between 5 and 15% shows that Prime Minister Rudd has been influenced by polluting industries that put profits before people and the environment.

The Department of Climate Change said today that the worst polluters like the coal industry will receive \$6 billion in free carbon pollution permits and handouts while renewable energy like wind and solar power will only get \$500 million.

“The Rudd Government is effectively handing down a future of fire, flood and drought,” said Mr Pritchard. “It’s bad news for the Kimberley, with a predicted increase in the number of severe storm events and cyclones.”

“Climate change leading to rises in temperature and rainfall could also lead to increases in fire intensity, frequency and the area burnt. This could endanger many of the plants and animals of the Kimberley.”

“Another big worry is that the food-growing areas of the south are going to be increasingly unproductive with climate change so that areas like the Kimberley will come under pressure to develop irrigated agriculture.

“We are very concerned that the sort of massive problems caused by land clearing, excessive use of water and chemical use for agriculture in places like the Murray-Darling Basin and the WA wheat belt will be repeated up here – this would be a disaster for a special place like the Kimberley.”

Media Contact

Martin Pritchard

Director

0427 548 075

(08) 9192 1922