URGENT
action needed on
Greenhouse

Very soon Federal Cabinet will be considering the question of setting targets for greenhouse gas emis-
sions. As a first step, Victoria has accepted the target proposed at the international meeting in Toronto: a 20 per cent reduction in carbon dioxide emissions (compared with 1988 levels) by the year 2000. At least two countries, West Germany and Denmark are seriously consid-
ering more substantial reductions than the Toronto target by the year 2005.

Despite the fact that the studies by Deni Greene and by the National Institute of Economic and Industry Research show that meeting the Toronto target could benefit the economy substantially, mining and energy Ministers are actually fore-
shadowing an increase in CO2 emissions.

Targets are not intended to be a target end in themselves, but are an effec-
tive and efficient means of mobilising the community to achieve genuine emission reductions.

Unlike a vague general commit-
tment, targets provide a serious fo-
cus for actions to reduce emissions.

Used for planning purposes, targets provide a clear framework for ex-
ploring options and a basis for evaluating progress. They also act as goals for achievement.

At present, some Cabinet Minis-
ters are undecided about targets,

Please write now to the Prime Min-
ister, Bob Hawke, and the following Federal Ministers: Ros Kelly, Min-
ister of Environment, John Kerin, Minister of Primary Industries and

Energy, Gareth Evans, Minister for
Foreign Affairs and Trade, (toll c-
"parliament House, Canb., r.a.,
2600) urging them to set the earliest possible target dates for the reduc-
tion of greenhouse gas emissions.

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