

## **As Senate Debates Carbon Tax Repeal, Australia Has Warmest Spring on Record**

The fact that Australia has just had its warmest spring on record should be a wake-up call to the Senate who must address the carbon tax repeal legislation this month, according to Climate Action Monaro.

According to the Australian Bureau of Meteorology, the spring of 2013 has been Australia's warmest on record. Mean temperatures for the season were 1.57oC above the 1961-1990 average. In September, mean temperatures were 2.75oC above normal, setting a new monthly record by more than a degree. October was 1.43oC above average and November 0.52oC above.

Climate Action Monaro President, Jenny Goldie, says this is not just a one-off record but part of a trend of general warming.

"We're on track to have the warmest year on average since temperatures to the end of November have been 1.23oC above average," says Ms Goldie.

"Westerly winds through spring have been responsible for the higher temperatures, and following a warm winter, soil moisture was down. Higher temperatures causing early flowering combined with late frosts have led to widespread crop losses," she says.

"Farmers on the Monaro are going to have to adapt somehow to these changing conditions as well as expect the higher likelihood of fire."

Ms Goldie says the Senate should take these factors into account when considering the repeal of the carbon tax legislation.

"What we want are strong measures to mitigate climate change, not the repeal of legislation that

had been responsible for removing 12 million tonnes of carbon from the atmosphere.

"Meanwhile China's largest province, Guangdong, with a population of more than 100 million, will cap greenhouse gas emissions and issue carbon permits to big polluters from next week. Beijing and Shanghai have already announced they will introduce an emissions trading scheme.

"China is clearly accepting the reality of climate change and moving forward, at the very time the Australian government is hell-bent on going backwards," says Ms Goldie.

**Further information:**

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