

NOTICE ON THE FIRST FIRESTORM OF CLIMATE CHANGE

As our state burns and our planet cooks, we need to ask...



Is 5% good enough?

Whole towns destroyed. 200+ Victorians dead. Many more severely burned. Tragically, a taste of things to come.

Saturday, February 7, 2009 was our hottest day on record, a week after our worst ever heatwave. After 12 long years of record drought, it was yet another appalling example of how fossil fuels like coal are dangerously warming the planet. Soon it could spiral out of human control – forever. So what are we doing about it?

Prime Minister Rudd intends to propose to the global climate treaty in Copenhagen this December that the world only deals with **5% of the problem for now**, leaving the rest of the work – when it may well be too late – to future generations. That's right: Australia wants to cut its very high greenhouse gas emissions by just 5% over the next 11 years.

Not enough? The best and latest climate science shows that we must eliminate emissions as quickly as possible and by at least 50% by 2020. It's a huge task, but achievable if we give it the priority it deserves. Yet there are plenty of influential polluting industries telling Mr Rudd that a tiny 5% cut in emissions is plenty.

It is up to the rest of us to tell him that **5% is worse than useless**.

What can we do?

The most effective way to be counted is to talk to your local member of parliament and share your concerns. For Elwood and surrounds that's Michael Danby of Melbourne Ports, in Fitzroy St, St Kilda. Ph: 9534-8126.

Dr Martin Williams is a member of *Doctors for the Environment, Australia*, which aims to improve health outcomes through better care of the environment.