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## Media release

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### **CPRS delivers certainty: Certain destruction of credibility**

The CPRS White Paper released today is based on the assumption of a five per cent reduction in Australia's emissions by 2020.

'The target announced today delivers the certainty business has been calling for, including the certain destruction of the Great Barrier Reef, the certain destruction of the Murray River, and the certain destruction of Australia's credibility on the international stage,' said Dr Richard Denniss, Executive Director of The Australia Institute.

'After more than 12 months in office the Government has not even delivered a step in the right direction. Instead they've delivered a step down the road towards dangerous climate change.'

While the CPRS was developed because of the scientific certainty of the need to reduce emissions by at least 25 per cent by 2020, the Rudd Government has ignored the same science in developing its target of 5 – 15 per cent.

'What is the point of believing the scientists about the need to act on climate change and then ignoring them when it comes to setting an appropriate target?'

'It is amazing how far the CPRS has drifted from its original intention. We started off with the principle of polluter pays and today we have the announcement of a scheme which in many instances pays the polluters.'

'The most surprising feature of the proposed scheme is that households will no longer be able to help reduce Australia's emissions. Under this scheme any emission reductions achieved by Australian households will actually allow the big polluters to increase their emissions by an equivalent amount,' concluded Dr Denniss.