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Media Release

Report finds Australia's future is going up in coal smoke

Australia is not performing well in its commitment to meet the international greenhouse gas target of 450ppm by 2020. A new G20 report entitled, *The Low-Carbon Competitiveness Report*, has placed Australia alongside Turkey and Russia in terms of its ability to be productive in a low-carbon world – a woeful outcome and one that Capricorn Conservation Council believes should make us wake up to the way we rely on coal and its export dollars, especially in Queensland.

'In the future, investors will be looking for economies that are growing as they lower their carbon emissions. If Australia fails to become competitive with renewable energy technologies, we will miss out on investment opportunities. Our living standards and jobs will be at risk if we don't change our economy and cut carbon pollution,' said CCC spokesperson Janet Barrett.

Carbon emissions in Australia only account for 1.5% of global emissions, but CCC believes Australia is shirking its abatement responsibilities. Australia is one of the most exposed countries to climate change and has a great deal to lose. The Great Barrier Reef, Kakadu, and the Wet Tropics are already identified as being extremely vulnerable to even slight temperature and rainfall changes.

'We are the highest polluters in the world on a per person basis. Rather than hide behind the 1.5% global fact, Australia needs to take on some personal responsibility and at least go to Copenhagen with some credible plan for action. But time is fast running out,' said Ms Barrett.

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