

## MEDIA RELEASE

(AVAILABLE FOR IMMEDIATE USE: 2 APRIL 2011)

### Thousands turn out in Sydney to rally for a price on pollution.

Over 8,000 Sydneysiders converged on the city's Belmore Park this morning to demonstrate their support for swift and effective action to reduce greenhouse pollution.

"Australians don't want our parliamentarians thinking that a vocal minority of negative naysayers speak for Australia – so we took to the street and made our voice heard," GetUp National Director Simon Sheikh said. "This is the year to put a price on the biggest polluting industries, and use that money to invest in clean energy, and helping lower-income families adjust to."

The rally was called for to counter an anti-carbon tax protest being conducted on the other side of Sydney in Hyde Park. That protest is estimated to have involved just 2,000 people.

The message out of the pro-action rally is a resounding "yes" to putting a limit and price on pollution, and investing in a rapid transition to a clean energy economy.

"Most Australians want to cut pollution and move to a clean energy economy," Australian Conservation Foundation's Climate and Clean Energy Campaigner Phil Freeman said. "Until we provide industry with an incentive to change the way we produce energy, our pollution levels will continue to rise – a price on pollution will create jobs, unlock investment in clean energy and help ensure a healthy environment for our future."

This is the second time in a month a pro-action rally has attracted more support than a negative rally, with 8,000 Melbournians converging on the city to counter 150 rallying outside the Prime Minister's electoral office in Lalor.

GetUp said today's events differed not only in size, but also in tone.

"It's sad that a select group of ultra-conservatives and shock-jocks have preyed on the community's concerns with misinformation and lies," Mr Sheikh said. "They charge a crowd with anger, while on the other side of town at our event, families, the old and young all turned out to calmly stand up and say, you know what? It's about time we had action on climate change.

"The anti-action group that gathered today had to eclipse our numbers if they were going to argue Australian sentiment was with them, but again, they have failed to do so."

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