

## **MCA Briefing Note: Action or talk - an analysis of emissions reduction performance of key nations since 1990.**

On 9 June, the Productivity Commission will release its report on emissions reduction policies and carbon prices in selected countries.

In advance of that report, we assess the **actual** performance of key trading partners and trade competitors in constraining emissions since 1990, including the 7 nations being analysed by the Productivity Commission.

The findings are clear. Australia **has performed better than most major developed and developing nations in restraining emissions since 1990.**

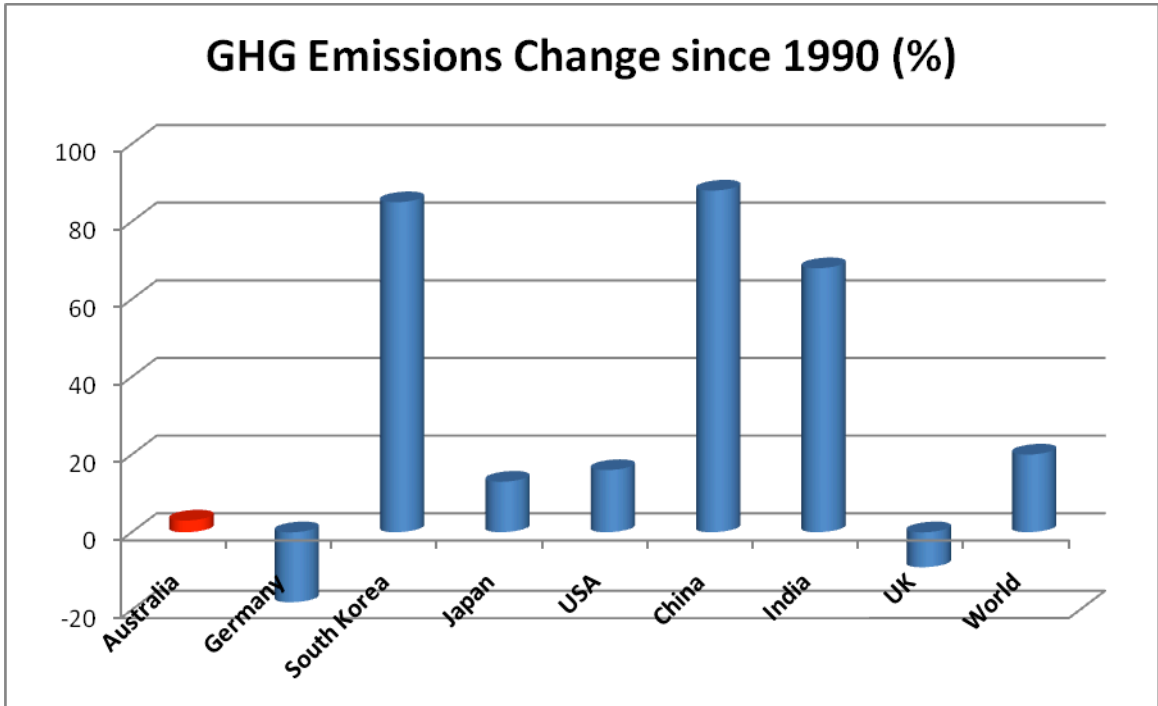
The proposition that Australia is a laggard in reducing emissions growth is not supported by the facts.

Similarly, **the claim that other nations are acting more aggressively than Australia is not reflected in their actual performance** in constraining emissions. In fact, the record suggests the opposite.

The only nations to have performed better include Germany and the United Kingdom, both of whom benefited from the choice of 1990 as a base year – Germany’s emissions fell sharply after unification and the collapse of the East German economy while 1990 also broadly coincided with liberalisation in the UK energy market and the related shift to reliance on North Sea gas.

<b>Country</b>	<b>GHG Emissions change since 1990</b>
Australia	3 per cent increase.
Canada	27 per cent increase.
Japan	13 per cent increase.
New Zealand	23 per cent increase.
United States	16 per cent increase.
China	88 per cent increase.
South Korea	85 per cent increase.
India	68 per cent increase.
Germany	18 per cent decrease.
United Kingdom	9 per cent decrease.
World	20 per cent increase.

Sources include Climate Analysis Indicators Tool (CAIT) Version 8.0, World Resources Institute, the Institute for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Energy, the Australian Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency, and the New Zealand Ministry of the Environment. Data includes latest available GHG data for each nation (including land use and land use change). The data for New Zealand does not include land use and land use change.



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**8 June, 2011.**