



**The Hon Greg Hunt MP**

**Minister for the Environment**

MC13-001921

Mr Malcolm Roberts  
180 Haven Road  
PULLENVALE QLD 4069

31 OCT 2013

Dear Mr Roberts

I refer to your letter of 03 October 2013 concerning climate change science.

The Australian Government accepts the science of climate change and takes its primary advice on climate science from the Bureau of Meteorology and CSIRO.

The world's leading scientific organisations have found that the Earth's climate is changing. Scientists assess this based on long term observations of air temperatures, the heat content of the ocean, and changes to glaciers, ice sheets and sea ice.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the leading international body for the assessment of climate change. The Working Group I contribution to the IPCC *Fifth Assessment Report – Climate Change 2013: The Physical Science Basis* was released on 27 September 2013 and shows that there is robust evidence that multiple components of the Earth's climate system are changing due to human activities. This report drew on over 9200 peer reviewed scientific publications (listed at the end of each chapter) and was compiled by over 200 lead authors and 600 contributing authors from 39 countries. The report can be found at [www.climatechange2013.org](http://www.climatechange2013.org).

The robustness of climate change science is underpinned by the peer review process. Peer review is the process of allowing science to be reviewed prior to its acceptance for publication by peers in the field who judge the competence, significance and originality of the research. These scientists then challenge or support these results with peer reviewed articles of their own and over time a consensus builds around the observations that explain the science most successfully. Without a peer review system publication of research findings would be arbitrary and more easily influenced by personal, social or political agendas.

The Australian Government is committed to caring for the unique Australian landscape through direct and practical policy measures under the four pillars of clean air, clean land, clean water and national heritage.

As part of the clean air plan, the Government will implement its Direct Action Plan on climate change. The Direct Action Plan is designed to deliver real emissions reductions at the lowest cost and tangible benefits that improve Australia's environment.

Implementation of the Plan will enable Australia to meet its target of a five per cent emissions reduction by 2020 without a carbon tax, which would drive up the cost of living and reduce Australia's competitiveness.

Our approach to climate change is to focus on practical responses which provide positive local environmental outcomes.

Thank you for writing on this matter.

Yours sincerely



Greg Hunt