

## lemma backflips on pre-election climate change promise

Thursday, 19 July 2007

The state's peak environment group has released a letter from former environment minister Bob Debus which said that Government policy was to review its target for cutting greenhouse emissions and increase renewable energy, and to legislate these cuts in 2007.

"Before the election the State Government told us to trust them on climate change and that they would review targets for renewable energy and deeper cuts in greenhouse pollution. In the context of climate change a broken promise just isn't acceptable," said Cate Faehrmann, executive director of the Nature Conservation Council.

In a letter dated 13th March 2007, just days before the state election, Mr Debus said:

"The Government's policy regarding greenhouse gas emissions is to reduce NSW's emissions by returning to 2000 levels by 2025 and achieving a 60 percent reduction by 2050. These will be legislated in 2007 after a review to establish potential increases."

"This review hasn't happened, and the new environment minister Phil Koperberg has now ruled out any increases in the target to cut our greenhouse emissions," Ms Faehrmann said.

"Legislation to bring in a target for renewable energy is now before parliament to increase our renewable energy use, but not to set targets to cut our greenhouse emissions.

"Neither the target to increase renewable energy or to cut overall greenhouse emissions has been reviewed.

"Unfortunately it appears that the State Government has developed a brownish tinge since Morris lemma took the helm.

"If we don't make the investment now to cut our greenhouse pollution, we will pay a hefty price in years to come.

"Climate change is a major concern in the community, and before the election, Morris lemma promised to do something about it. Now he has changed his mind and has let down the voters who trusted him," Ms Faehrmann said.

Download [the full letter from Mr Debus to the Nature Conservation Council.](#)