

# The Australian

---

## New roundtables to debate climate change

- **Lauren Wilson**
- From: **The Australian**
- October 18, 2010 12:00AM

[Recommend](#)

Be the first of your friends to recommend this.

**18** retweet

### **TWO new roundtables on climate change will be announced today by the government as it pushes ahead with its bid to put a price on carbon.**

After scrapping the proposed citizens' assembly on climate change earlier this month, the federal government will today announce the formation of a business roundtable and a roundtable for non-government organisations to debate the issue of putting a price on carbon.

The business roundtable, which will be co-chaired by Treasurer Wayne Swan and Climate Change Minister Greg Combet, will include chief executives of some of Australia's leading manufacturing, mining and banking companies including Rio Tinto, Woodside, Lend Lease, Qantas, and the National Australia Bank.

BHP Billiton will be represented by its metallurgical coal president Hubie van Dalsen rather than its chief executive Marius Kloppers, who made a dramatic entrance in the climate change debate last month by arguing for a carbon tax.

Representatives from some of Australia's peak bodies, including the Business Council of Australia, the National Farmers' Federation and the Australian Industry Group, will also participate.

Peter Anderson, the chief executive of the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said the forum would be a "chance to hear alternative views". "It is a crucial opportunity for ACCI to constructively put the case against a carbon tax and put the views of the hundreds of thousands of (small and medium enterprises) who were so ignored during the development of the earlier carbon pollution reduction scheme," Mr Anderson said.

The chief executive of the NFF, Ben Fargher, said he expected the discussions "may well be robust".

"We feel we have a lot of perspectives to offer from agriculture. We are very trade-exposed and if the mechanism was wrong it could really hurt our industry," he said.

Union and community sector leaders have simultaneously been appointed to a non-government organisation roundtable which is likely to canvass how the government might protect jobs and offer assistance to households as it moves toward a price on carbon.

Representatives from the Climate Institute, Greenpeace Australia Pacific and ClimateWorks Australia will join the heads of the Australian Council of Trade Unions, the Construction Forestry Mining and Energy Union, and the Australian Workers Union in the roundtable co-chaired by Mr Combet and the Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, Tony Burke.

[Recommend](#)

Be the first of your friends to recommend this.

**18** retweet