



New inquiry into the choice of emissions trading

The House of Representatives Economics Committee will examine the choice of emissions trading as the central policy to reduce Australia's carbon pollution.

The climate is changing and there is significant scientific evidence to suggest that it will continue to change. Australia has a climate sensitive economy and is particularly susceptible to droughts, bushfires, floods, tropical cyclones and hail storms which lead to substantial social and economic costs.

The Chair of the House Economics Committee, Craig Thomson (Member for Dobell, NSW), said: "we need to take urgent action to help slow down the effects of climate change. We need to examine sustainable economic options to reduce our carbon footprint effectively and in a timely manner."

The committee's inquiry will focus on how Australia can make the transition to a lower carbon economy both efficiently and economically. The terms of reference for the inquiry referred by the Treasurer Wayne Swan are:

The Committee will inquire into the choice of emissions trading as the central policy to reduce Australia's carbon pollution, taking into account the need to:

- a) **reduce carbon pollution at the lowest economic cost;**
- b) **put in place long-term incentives for investment in clean energy and low-emission technology; and**
- c) **contribute to a global solution to climate change.**

The committee is keen to hear from industry, peak associations, academia, government departments, the scientific community and individuals. **The committee will accept submissions, preferably by email, until Friday, 20 March 2009.** The Committee has been asked to report back in the second half of 2009.

Further details about the inquiry, including how to make a submission, can be obtained from the committee's website at www.aph.gov.au/economics or by contacting the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4209 or emailing economics.reps@aph.gov.au

For media comment: please contact the Committee Chair, Mr Craig Thomson MP, on (02) 4351 1223 (Electorate Office) or (02) 6277 4460 Parliament House

Further information: contact the Inquiry Secretary (02) 6277 4209, email economics.reps@aph.gov.au or visit the Committee's webpage at <http://www.aph.gov.au/economics>