



Australian Government
Department of the Environment

Christine McDonald
Secretary
Senate Environment and Communications Committee
Parliament House
Canberra
By email: Christine.McDonald@aph.gov.au

Dear Ms McDonald

During the Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee's inquiry into the Clean Energy Legislation (Carbon Tax Repeal) Bill 2013 and related bills, Senator Xenophon requested information on the extent to which existing greenhouse gas measurement and compliance regimes could be used in the context of the Government's Direct Action Plan.

The Government's policy is to continue existing arrangements that will enable Australia to meet its climate change objectives, including fulfilling its international reporting obligations and reducing emissions by Direct Action. These arrangements include the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Scheme (NGERS), the Carbon Farming Initiative (CFI) and the Australian National Registry for Emissions Units (ANREU).

With the passage of carbon tax repeal legislation, NGERS will continue to function as the primary mechanism for collecting company and facility-level data on greenhouse-gas emissions, energy use and energy production.

Under the Direct Action Plan, the Government proposes to build on the CFI and to make use of NGERS to implement the Emissions Reduction Fund (ERF). NGERS will be the key system for the monitoring, reporting and verification of Australia's emissions.

The Government is developing a Green Paper which will set out the preferred options for design of the ERF, including key features such as auctions, baselines and contract arrangements. The Government intends that the Green Paper will be released in December. Further information on how to contribute to the development of the Fund will be available shortly on the Department's website, at: <http://www.environment.gov.au>.

In addition, information and Fact Sheets on the reporting requirements and compliance policies under NGERS, on the CFI and ANREU are available on the Clean Energy Regulator's website, at:

<http://www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au/National-Greenhouse-and-Energy-Reporting>;
<http://www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au/Carbon-Farming-Initiative>; and
<http://www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au/ANREU>.

Yours sincerely

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28 November 2013