

The Secretary of the Committee  
e-mail: jsct@aph.gov.au

14<sup>th</sup> August 2000

Dear Sir / Madam,

**Re: Federal Parliament Joint Standing Committee on Treaties: Inquiry into the Kyoto Protocol**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the 'Federal Parliament Joint Standing Committee on Treaties: Inquiry into the Kyoto Protocol'.

The following provides an explanation of a program directly focussed on reducing greenhouse gas emissions at the local government level. The program, Cities for Climate Protection™ (CCP™) is a collaborative initiative between the International Council for Local Government Initiatives (ICLEI) and the Commonwealth. Through the Australian Greenhouse Office (AGO), a commitment has been made to fund CCP™ \$13 million over 5 years. The attachment provides detailed background information on CCP™ Australia.

In summary, ICLEI wishes to stress the need for the ratification of the Kyoto Protocol on climate change as we believe this is in Australia's national interest. It also capitalises on the enormous amount of voluntary and other committed effort underway at both the community and local government levels.

### **International Council for Local Government Initiatives (ICLEI)**

ICLEI is a not for profit association, established under the sponsorship of the United Nations Environment Program, the International Union of Local Authorities, and the Centre for Innovative Diplomacy in 1990. It is made up of membership of local government and local government associations. The purpose of ICLEI is to "build and support a worldwide movement of local governments to achieve tangible improvements in global environmental conditions through the cumulative impact of local actions".

### **Cities for Climate Protection™**

CCP™ was conceived in January 1993 at the First Municipal Leaders Summit on Climate Change, held at the United Nations in New York. ICLEI initiated CCP™ in response to the widespread scientific agreement that the global climate is changing as a result of human-induced emissions of greenhouse gases. CCP™ motivates and empowers local governments throughout the world to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Currently worldwide there are over 300 councils involved in CCP™.

### **Cities for Climate Protection™ Australia**

CCP™ was started in Australia in 1998. CCP™ Australia is run in collaboration with the Australian Greenhouse Office. There are currently 73 councils involved in CCP™ in Australia, representing over 30% of the population.

The Commonwealth, through the Australia Greenhouse Office funding commitment of five years to the CCP™ program has taken a leadership role in supporting greenhouse reduction action at the local government level. This acknowledgment that local government has a key role to play in reducing greenhouse emissions at a local community level is an important one.

CCP™ Australia participant councils are already achieving emission reductions. Projects include energy efficiency retrofits of buildings, increased energy efficiency in lighting and equipment, alternative renewable power sources, waste reduction, fuel switching and vehicle fleet reduction. At this stage most councils are focusing on areas within local government operations ie. municipal buildings, vehicle fleet, as these are the areas of direct responsibility where emission reduction measures can be implemented and examples can be set for the wider community. However, councils are moving towards extending to residential, commercial and industrial sectors as this is where the majority of emissions come from.

#### **A few points of emphasis:**

- it is important to have Australia show leadership in greenhouse gas reductions as we are amongst highest per capita emitters in world
- the Kyoto protocol will provide economic opportunities as already demonstrated by CCP councils in greenhouse gas reduction
- local government are making major steps towards meeting the protocol requirements and state and national government support is essential for them to make a difference
- with respect to the transport sector, greenhouse action also makes sense on a local level as a local air quality issue. This is just one of the many co-benefits generated when governments work in partnership
- there is specific growing interest in local govt in the opportunities arising from trading credits, carbon credits, sequestration, revegetation
- what is the alternative to a non international agreement? What pressure can be exerted on other countries to conform if not by an international treaty? The protocol provides the best option for the moment to get international consensus moving into action.

ICLEI would welcome the opportunity to provide further information to the Senate Inquiry about CCP™, the projects' current participant councils are implementing and the opportunities for local government to contribute to further emission reductions in Australia.

Thank you for your efforts in this matter.

Yours sincerely

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