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8 April 2009

The Secretary
Senate Select Committee on Climate Policy
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

By email: climate.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Sir / Madam

Re: Select Committee on Climate Policy inquiry into the choice of emissions trading as the central policy to reduce Australia's carbon pollution

The Clean Energy Council (CEC) is the peak body representing Australia's clean energy and energy efficiency industries.

Its priorities are to:

- create the optimal conditions in Australia to stimulate investment in the development and deployment of world's best clean energy technologies
- develop effective legislation and regulation to reduce energy demand and improve its efficient use
- work to reduce costs and remove all other barriers to accessing clean energy.

The CEC advocates policy development on behalf of its members at the Federal and state government level and promotes understanding of the industry and its potential through forums such as industry events, forums, conferences, newsletters and publications.

The "clean energy" industry includes generation of electricity using wind, hydro, solar, biomass, geothermal and ocean energy as well as the emerging technologies and service providers in the energy efficiency sector including solar hot water and cogeneration.

The CEC welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Senate Select Committee on Climate Policy inquiry into emissions trading. The CEC has been actively involved in the numerous consultations, forum and round tables held by the Government during the

development of the draft Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS) legislation and supports the Government's commitment to implementing emissions trading through the CPRS and broadly supports the design features outlined in the White Paper and exposure draft legislation. However, the size of the targets and the proposed design do highlight the importance of finalising the setting of effective renewable energy targets and other complementary measures.

The CEC recognises the scale and complexity of the challenge at hand and expects that we will be debating the details of domestic and global emissions trading scheme design for at least the next decade. Nevertheless, the CEC believe that this should not be used as an excuse to delay the process. We need to learn as much as we can and should start saving energy and increase the take-up of clean technologies today.

Cutting global greenhouse emissions is a long term international problem that will only be solved if developed economies like Australia are in a strong position to drive the changes needed. Australia has a wide range of zero and low carbon technologies available and to make sure they are developed to the full extent should therefore immediately commit to an aggressive regime of energy efficiency and deploying and developing clean energy technologies to speed up the transition to a carbon costed economy.

The CEC would be pleased to expand on our submission to the committee and appear before it. Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned or the Council's General Manager Policy, Mr Rob Jackson on ph. (03) 9929 4105 or email rjackson@cleanenergycouncil.org.au.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Warren', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Matthew Warren
Chief Executive