

Dear Committee Secretary

Submission

Dear Committee Secretary:

Submission - Inquiry into the exposure drafts of the legislation to implement the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme.

The Senate Standing Committee on Economics should agree to introducing an efficient and effective emissions trading scheme which must include all modes of transport.

An emissions trading scheme should start as soon as practical.

The Association of Tourist Railways Queensland (ATRQ) is the peak body representing rail tourism in Queensland. ATRQ is in turn a member of the Association of Tourist and Heritage Rail Australia, which represents all the states' rail tourism and heritage operations.

ATHRA represents in excess of one hundred rail operators in Australia, most of which are wholly run by volunteers, while the remainder have a very small number of paid employees, with mostly volunteer staff.

ATHRA is concerned that the introduction of a Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme might have an adverse impact on its members ability to continue in operation if there is not a consideration given to the fact that these operators do not have the financial resources of big corporations.

However, ATHRA members recognize their environmental responsibilities and acknowledge that Australia needs to reduce its carbon emissions. To that end, one of the State bodies, the Association of Tourist Railways Queensland is in the process of determining the total emission load of its members in Queensland. Data has been received from 50% of ATRQ members and an analysis shows that annual emissions for these members would be approximately 1150 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>. It is therefore estimated that the total emissions for all ATRQ members would be less than 2500 tonnes per annum. Once this survey is completed in Queensland, it is planned to extend the project to all tourist and heritage rail operators in Australia.

In 2008, the tourist and heritage rail sector's direct contribution to the Queensland economy was \$9.9M with a total direct and indirect contribution of \$29.7M. This is the equivalent of approximately 370 FTE jobs.

The Association of Tourist and Heritage Rail Australia submits that a reasonable threshold be included in the CPRS so that there is minimal impact on the activities of primarily volunteers groups who through their activities, bring economic benefits to the community.

Sincerely,  
Graham Wilson  
Health & Medical Services,  
Association of Tourist Railways Queensland