

EMISSIONS TRADING FORUM

GLADSTONE

THURSDAY, 21 AUGUST, 2008

PUBLIC STATEMENT BY PARTICIPANTS

More than 50 industry, business and community leaders actively involved in the Gladstone and Surat Basin Regions have met in Gladstone to discuss the economic impact that the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS) and Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) will have on the prosperity of the region and investment in its future development.

A collective view was expressed by those in attendance and they reached agreement on a Six Point Plan as outlined below, resolving that it should be conveyed to the Prime Minister, Minister for Climate Change, Leader of the Opposition, Leaders of Minor Parties, along with the Premier of Queensland, and Mayors of Regional Councils.

“We recognise the importance of protecting and sustaining jobs and of enhancing industrial investment and mining in the Gladstone and Surat Basin Regions. We express pride in the contribution that this region makes to both the Queensland and Australian Economy and we recognise the need for further strong investment to ensure its continued growth.

In considering the proposed ETS, we request the Federal Government to acknowledge and implement the following statement:

1. The importance of the task of combating Climate Change and Global Warming and the commitment of the Federal Government in taking constructive steps to achieve long term results in the reduction of carbon pollution is acknowledged.
2. Australia should take a leading role in building support for a genuinely comprehensive global response to emissions reductions that includes not only developed countries, but also rapidly industrialising nations, such as China, India and Brazil. To achieve this, there should be:
 - An effective Australian climate change policy framework which will deliver:
 - a. Long term energy security;
 - b. Ongoing economic growth and international competitiveness;
 - c. Reduction in our emissions;
 - d. Behavioural change not just by producers but also by consumers.
 - A simple and equitable ETS which will promote the abatement of greenhouse gas emissions at least cost. This can be achieved by:
 - a. A staged approach to full auctioning
 - b. A flexible emission trajectory aligned with
 - i. Availability of low emission technology;
 - ii. Minimising economic shock; and
 - iii. International agreements/actions following the Copenhagen Conference which is scheduled for December 2009.

- Recognition that the Gladstone and Surat Basin Regions have a unique mix of primary and support industries, rural and mining sectors and mineral and chemical processing as its economic base and that the Central Queensland University with its Research Institute for Resource Industries and Sustainable Development in Gladstone, together with local skills sets, is well positioned to enter into a partnership with Federal Government to lead research and development of current and additional emissions reduction technologies. In light of the timelines involved, it is proposed that this Research be considered a priority.
3. The ETS should be implemented without haste and at a moderate level of cost with the intention of progressively increasing the Scheme over a long period of time in a manner which will show leadership to the world, but will restrain its impact on inflation and not cause investment to be diverted to resource industries overseas.
 4. A balanced community information program should be developed so that regional population can accurately determine:
 - the direct impact that CPRS will have on them as individuals, businesses, families and community;
 - ways in which they can reduce their own carbon footprint.
 5. There should be financial incentives for greater investment in infrastructure to support the creation of adequate water resources, alternative and cleaner power sources and a comprehensive enhancement of all aspects of the environment in the Gladstone and Surat Basin Regions.
 6. Because of the importance of CPRS to all Australians, particularly people in our Region, there should be bipartisan agreement by Government and Opposition to implement legislation in the Federal Parliament.”

This statement is commended to you for support and action.

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Development Ltd (GAPDL)

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