



Committee supports carbon farming legislation

The House of Representatives Climate Change, Environment and the Arts Committee today presented its advisory report on three bills relating to establishment of a Carbon Farming Initiative: Carbon Credits (Carbon Farming Initiative) Bill 2011, Carbon Credits (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2011 and Australian National Registry of Emissions Units Bill 2011.

The proposed Carbon Farming Initiative is a voluntary scheme, designed to provide farmers, forest growers and landholders access to carbon markets in order to utilise abatement opportunities that exist in the land sector. The Initiative is also intended to help Australia meet its international obligations under the United Nations Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol, while achieving carbon abatement in a manner that is consistent with protection of Australia's natural environment.

The Committee acknowledges that there is broad support for the scheme. 'The bills were generally welcomed as a means to engage the land sector in greenhouse gas abatement activities' Committee Chair Mr Tony Zappia MP, said.

'The Committee has supported the bills, but recognises some concerns about how the scheme will be implemented' Mr Zappia said. 'Regulations will establish a "positive" and "negative" list, which will identify projects that are eligible to receive carbon credits.'

'Many details of the scheme will be included in regulations, so the Committee encourages the Government to make those proposed regulations available as soon as possible' Mr Zappia said.

'The Committee has also highlighted the following issues for further Government attention:

- the importance of ongoing funding for research and development;
- ongoing stakeholder consultation, especially with Indigenous groups, to clarify operation of the scheme and address barriers to participation;
- promotion of carbon literacy; and
- monitoring of environmental and social impacts.'

'The mandatory review of the scheme by 31 December 2014 will be an opportunity to examine how well it is meeting its objectives, and refine it if necessary' Mr Zappia said.

The report is available from <http://www.aph.gov.au/ccea>.

For **media comment**: contact the Committee Chair, Mr Tony Zappia MP, on 02 6277 4147 (Canberra) or 08 8265 3100 (electorate office)

For **background information**: contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 4580 or by email at ccea.reps@aph.gov.au.