



4 March 2009

Hon Kevin Rudd
Prime Minister
Via email:

Dear Prime Minister

Attached is a submission from Environment Business Australia (EBA). Our focus is on creating and protecting prosperity by building new markets, new industries and new jobs that help to tackle climate change and the financial and economic crisis together.

We believe that to achieve these goals the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS), as outlined in the White Paper, needs to be significantly strengthened.

Our core recommendations are highlighted at the beginning of the paper, but in summary they involve Government using all available and pertinent policies to ensure an adequate governance structure for markets so that the value to the economy and the community of a robust and resilient environment is recognised and protected. Clearly this needs to be championed at the international institutional level as well as in Australia and feedback from the UN and WTO, together with recent statements by the IMF and World Bank, indicate strong support for this approach.

We put forward a number of stepping stones for the development of the next technological era, or the 'global green new deal' and specifically propose that Australia aim to be, by 2030, a minerals processing and manufacturing 'hub' for the entire region based on renewable sources of energy which would also underpin electricity generation.

A national strategy with such a vision will help make sense of decarbonising production, consumption, transportation, buildings and the supply chain that links them. This is because, alongside the vision, it will create many thousands of quality jobs in the immediate term as well as Australia's next competitive edge.

Energy efficiency has a key role to play as does advanced waste treatment and recycling and these approaches are also emphasised in our paper. In addition to rapid deployment of innovation, and support to commercialise near-horizon technologies and systems, we also strongly recommend a biosequestration approach to drawing down the current levels of carbon in the atmosphere. There are multiple dividends to be gained and these include improving soil quality and productivity, better drought resilience, and significant opportunities for farmers and rural communities to benefit from the carbon market. The carbon 'bridge' offsets would allow Australia to embrace targets for far deeper cuts by 2020.

EBA is holding a series of forums throughout the year for business leaders, the finance community, scientists and NGOs to bring their expertise and innovation together. The objective is to create commercial opportunity and new wealth generation as 'clean' innovation is woven into the economy and negative externalities such as pollution and waste are winnowed out.

We most strongly recommend that action to combat climate change should not be stalled. Leading scientists who are experts in this area are quite frank about the need for rapid and meaningful action at a scale that will make a difference.

The Australian environment industry and cleantech sector is ready, willing and abundantly able to help develop and deploy the innovative and far-reaching solutions needed to avoid further build up of atmospheric carbon. I request a meeting to brief you and your advisers on our important recommendations.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Fiona Wain'.

Fiona Wain
Chief Executive Officer, Environment Business Australia
Tel 02 9358 1800 Email eba@environmentbusiness.com.au www.environmentbusiness.com.au