

**BURRUP FERTILISERS PTY LTD  
(PART OF THE OSWAL GROUP)**

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15 April 2009

Senator The Hon. Ron Boswell  
The Nationals – Senator for Queensland  
Suite S1-44 Parliament House  
Canberra, ACT 2600

Dear Senator Boswell

We welcome the broad terms of reference which includes:

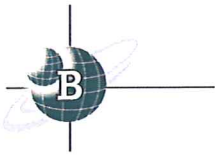
- the choice of emissions trading as the central policy to reduce Australia's carbon pollution
- relative contributions to overall emission reduction targets from complementary measures such as renewable energy feed-in laws, and
- whether the Government's Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme is environmentally effective.

We support the choice of emissions trading as the central policy to reduce Australia's carbon pollution, provided it generates a carbon price sufficient to move renewable and any other very low carbon energy for industry, transport, home and office use into viability.

A major conclusion from the Copenhagen Climate Science Congress held in March is that significant or even dangerous climate change is highly likely if business-as-usual emissions growth that has taken place up to the present is allowed to continue any more than another six years. For the world not to be put at great risk, global emissions must peak no later than 2015, and then start to decline about 4% per annum. Then and only then could we have a reasonable chance of limiting global mean temperature rise from pre-industrial times to no more than 2°C this century, the critical threshold beyond which carbon stores in the earth system could be destabilised to trigger positive feedback loops and dangerous climate change.

If the world's leaders are to agree at the UNFCCC's COP15 in Copenhagen in December to a post Kyoto deal that aims for the 2°C limit for global warming, Australia will need to be an exemplary leader in emissions mitigation. This is because, as Professor Garnaut has said repeatedly, Australia is a front line region for severe climate impacts; we need only to consider the latest data on the loss of river flow in the Murray Darling system and extreme wildfire events and droughts of the past ten years to acknowledge that he is right. The second reason for Australia to take a leadership role is that it is a highly developed country with a very high per capita energy consumption habit, hence with many low hanging fruit at our disposal in reducing energy consumption and emissions production.

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As Lord Nicholas Stern has warned, it will be much more cost-effective to act now to minimise climate impacts and the resulting social and economic costs. If we delay any more, the costs will rise very disproportionately. The climate challenge also presents great opportunities for technological advancement and economic growth. The recession fighting funds now available to governments in developed countries should be seen as an opportunity to invest in such technology driven growth.

We agree with Dr Barrie Pittock, former leader, CSIRO Climate Impacts Group, and author of *Climate Change: Science, Impacts and Solutions, 2009*, that to achieve rapid reductions in emissions, Australia and the world need to undertake a wide variety of activities, including:

- electricity from solar energy
- photovoltaic systems, solar thermal, and solar hot water increased energy efficiency in homes, industry and transport
- substitution of natural gas for coal and oil
- co-generation of electricity and heat
- wind generated energy, especially in coastal areas
- geothermal power
- wave and tidal power
- energy storage for base-load power from renewable sources by melting of salt in tanks; hydro-electric pumping and storage; generation of electrolytes, hydrogen, or compressed air; and recharging of batteries for electric cars
- second generation biofuels from cellulosic raw materials such as organic waste, thus reducing land fills and avoiding competition with food production
- carbon capture and sequestration from fossil fuel power plants if safe and economic
- generation of biochar for sequestration in soils by the pyrolysis of organic matter including waste material (by decomposition into hydrogen, methane and charcoal by heating without oxygen)
- nuclear power with all safeguards (safe storage or avoidance of nuclear waste,
- safeguards against accidents and terrorism) if economically viable
- improved management of forests to maximise carbon storage
- improved management of agricultural soils to store carbon

Yours sincerely

**Burrup Fertilisers Pty Ltd**

**Pankaj Oswal**  
**Chairman and Managing Director**

cc. Mr. John Hawkins  
Committee Secretary  
Senate Select Committee on Climate Policy