
The Carbon Markets & Investors Association (CMIA), along with other companies and associations, have signed on to a joint statement backing a price on carbon.

They join previous signatories including GE, AGL, Fujitsu, IKEA, Alstom and Pacific Hydro to make up a total of 55 companies pledging their support for a carbon price.

The combined businesses represent a wide variety of sectors from across the economy including infrastructure, energy, capital, technology and retail. They have united behind the statement to encourage all members of the Australian Parliament to take positive action and assist Australia's transition to a low-carbon economy.

The businesses agree that a carbon price with cost effective complementary measures is critical to reducing Australia's emissions and ensuring Australia remains globally competitive as the rest of the world reduces their emissions.

The new wave of businesses signing the statement coincides with the launch of a website called Business for a Clean Economy. This has been developed out of concern that many businesses are not being represented in the current carbon price debate.

The site will allow other businesses, no matter what their size or industry, to show their support for a price on carbon. Current signatories are urging more businesses to sign the statement through the Business for a Clean Economy website: www.b4ce.com.au

The next four months will now see carbon price legislation drafted and debated in Parliament and business support will continue to provide an important voice in the debate.

Anthony Hopley, Board Member of the CMIA, said:

"The price on carbon will make a difference to global emissions targets. Australia is one of the top 20 countries in the world in terms of emissions and has the highest per capita emissions of almost any country in the world. If Australia does not do this it allows others not to do anything. But it is important to note that some 32 countries have already done this and it is not a case of Australia leading, but Australia being left behind."

The Business Statement

"As major Australian and international corporations and representative associations operating across the Australian economy we strongly support the introduction of a well-designed carbon price to support the transition to a low-carbon economy.

Australia must aim to be globally competitive in clean energy, energy efficiency and low-carbon technology. Pricing carbon is critical to providing business certainty and unlocking the jobs and investment that will accompany the transition to a prosperous, cleaner and internationally-competitive economy.

As the costs of action are outweighed by the costs of delay the carbon price should be implemented as soon as possible. A price should be accompanied by appropriate transitional assistance for households and business, as well as complementary measures that reduce emissions at least economic cost.

We look forward to working with the Multi-Party Climate Change Committee and all members of Parliament as they implement a carbon price."

Signatories to the Statement

Adelaide Solarsafe
AGL
Alstom Limited
AquaGen Technologies Pty Ltd
ARUP
Australian Information Industry Association
Australian Radio Towers
Big Switch Projects
Better Place
Body Shop
Carbon Markets & Investors Association (CMIA)
Carbon Trade Exchange Ltd
Catholic Super
Ceramic Fuel Cells Limited
Climate Friendly Pty Ltd
Combined Force Pty. Ltd.
Consult Australia
East River Software
Energy Efficiency Council
Ferrostaal Group
Fronius Australia Pty Ltd
Fujitsu
GE
Goldwind Australia Pty Ltd
Grocon Group
Hydro Tasmania
IKEA
Infigen Energy
Johnson Controls
Kell&Rigby
Local Government Superannuation Scheme Pty Limited

MEA
Microsolar System Pty Ltd
Neo Power
Pacific Hydro
Pacific Solar
Pangolin Associates
Pan Pacific Solar
Pinpoint Marketing Consultants
pitt&sherry
Pottinger
Reemerge Pty Ltd
RES Australia Pty Ltd
Solar 1
Solar Elec Services
Solar Shop Australia Pty Ltd
Springers Low Voltage Specialists
sun empire SOLAR SYSTEMS
SunTrix
Sustainable Man Pty Ltd
Transport and Logistics Centre
Wind Prospect Pty Ltd
Windlab

The following organizations are also supporting this statement

WWF
Clean Energy Council
The Climate Group
The Climate Institute
The Investor Group on Climate Change (IGCC)

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

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About the CMIA:

The Carbon Markets & Investors Association (CMIA) is an international trade association representing over 50 companies that finance, invest in, and provide enabling support to activities that reduce emissions. CMIA's membership accounts for an estimated 75 per cent of the global carbon market, valued at USD 120 billion in 2010. Solely representing organizations that provide services to and invest in the environmental sector, membership does not include any entities with compliance obligations under cap-and-trade schemes. This results in a unique advocacy platform with emphasis on the environmental integrity of market mechanisms and climate change policies.