



AUSTRALIAN CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday 19 November 2009

ACCI GENERAL COUNCIL OPPOSES UNILATERAL ADOPTION OF CARBON POLLUTION REDUCTION SCHEME

Statement arising from the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry's General Council Meeting held in Canberra on 19 November 2009. The ACCI General Council comprises the Presidents and Chief Executives of the 36 member organisations that constitute ACCI - Australia's peak national employer and business organisation.

General Council considered that Australia's national interest requires the following principles to apply when addressing climate change issues:

- strike a responsible balance between environmental protection, energy security and affordability and sustainable economic growth;
- judge energy sources and technologies equitably based on their carbon intensity and ensure that competition is not distorted such that Australia's energy security, sustainability and affordability is not compromised;
- place Australia in an equal competitive footing with the rest of the world and in particular its major trading partners; and
- acknowledge that climate change policy is about energy efficiency and positive technological responses to a low carbon economy, and this includes the need for support measures for industry to encourage the adoption of energy efficiency measures.

However, General Council also expressed strong opposition to the unilateral adoption of the proposed Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS), on the basis that the current design of the CPRS will reduce competitiveness, increase energy costs and relocate some domestic economic activity to other countries, thus not reducing global greenhouse gases.

Commenting on this decision, ACCI Chief Executive Peter Anderson said: "the CPRS is shaping to be the world's toughest 'cap and trade' scheme, both in terms of its wide coverage of national emissions, the exposure of small business to higher energy costs and also the limited relief in the form of free permit allocation."

"The likelihood of a political framework agreement rather than a treaty coming out of Copenhagen provides an opportunity to develop broader-based approaches to sustainability and energy security policy."

The Australian Government should:

- allow for diversifiable and wide-ranging approaches tailored to meet an emissions reduction target post-Copenhagen as the international picture develops. This may include responses other than the cap-and-trade approach, for example proposals to improve generating efficiency through technology and changes in the fuel mix over time; and
- assesses the regulatory impact of any proposed measures.

For further information:

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