

Hello

This month, staff from Green Pass were able to have a presence at the 'Carbon Reduction and Trading Expo 2009', which has led to many industry contacts and networking opportunities. The Expo proved that carbon talk is highly ranked as a business concern, with over 10,000 visitors from within Australia and overseas attending. The Expo, at the Melbourne Exhibition Centre, was conducted in conjunction with the Safety in Handling and Materials industries. The Expo provided an excellent opportunity to learn the latest news on the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2007, which established the reporting responsibilities of the largest polluters, and of the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme that has yet to pass through the Parliament.

The last few weeks have seen significant developments in the new world of carbon management and we report here of an innovative Carbon Institute opened by the Prime Minister, a Chinese criticism that Australia's emissions targets are set too low and criticism of the ETS by Ross Garnaut.

A **Global Carbon Capture and Storage Institute** was officially opened by Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, with the appointment of former World Bank head, Jim Wolfensohn, as chair of its International Advisory Panel. This Panel will provide strategic advice to the Institute's worldwide activities and the Institute has been established to accelerate the deployment of carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology and to share information. Supported internationally with 85 agencies and major companies, with more members expected when the Institute is legally registered, it includes influential organisations, such as the Australian Coal Association, the World Coal Institute, the Japanese Coal Energy Center, with the World Bank as a collaborator.

A member of the **Chinese Experts Committee for Climate Change**, Dr Jiahua Pan, said that Australia's targets were 'insufficient' and that China expected Australia to play a larger role in a future global carbon agreement. Dr Pan told a Climate Change summit in Canberra last week that the targets will not be sufficient to make the 450 parts per million carbon dioxide equivalent stabilisation point as is preferred by the Australian Government. Penny Wong, Climate Change Minister, would not respond directly to the comments but stated that Australia would take a stronger 2050 target to the next election if a global carbon agreement was reached. She said, "We recognise this in one point in what is a multi-decade transformation of the Australian economy." The comments follow evidence from climate scientists that Australia's targets would not avoid dangerous climate change, and climate change critics who said that a doubling of atmospheric carbon would not warm the planet.

Meanwhile, **scientists at the US National Center for Atmospheric Research** (NCAR), will soon be publishing a report that states that the threat of global warming can still be greatly diminished if nations cut emissions of heat-trapping greenhouse gases by 70 per cent this century.

It states that while global temperatures would rise, the most dangerous anticipated aspects of climate change, including massive losses of Arctic sea ice and permafrost and significant sea level rise, could be partially avoided. The lead author, Warren Washington, stated that although we may no longer be able to avoid significant warming this century, we could stabilise the threat of climate change and avoid catastrophe if the world limited emissions. Average global temperatures have warmed by nearly 1 degree Celsius since the pre-industrial era, with carbon dioxide levels rising from 284 ppm to more than 380 ppm now.

Australia's own climate advisor, Professor Ross Garnaut, believes it is "lineball" whether the emissions trading scheme (ETS) in its current form is worth doing and it may be advisable to dump it and "have another crack at it" later. In a committee hearing in Canberra, he urged senators to make substantial changes because, if there were no changes, the present scheme may not be workable. He set out changes, which included his wish to see deeper cuts to greenhouse emissions, wanting to see the 5-15% cut by 2020, increased to 25% - conditional upon other nations taking similar steps. Professor Garnaut also wanted to see the Government ear-tag more money for new and green technologies. Initial problems with the ETS could be prevented by limiting or stopping the use of free permits to polluting industries and waiting until the global recession was over.

That's about it for the moment. I must say that we are using the economic slowdown to develop improved networks and business opportunities, as well as having staff undertake pertinent training programs that will improve their competency in carbon auditing and sustainability business management, both now and in the future.

Yours faithfully,



Peter Lovett
Managing Director