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Press Release: Attention Political, Resource & Environment Reporters

Call for Urgent Government Action on Voluntary Carbon Market

On 1 July 2010 the National Carbon Offset Standard (NCOS) will replace the Greenhouse Friendly Program. It is supposed to define the nature of carbon offsets for organisations wanting to reduce their carbon emissions voluntarily. However, the NCOS was developed by Government to interact with the CPRS, and the delay of the CPRS has left the NCOS with several gaps. This uncertainty has reduced investment in Australian projects delivering domestic carbon reduction, which is an important part of the Voluntary Carbon Market.

Ric Brazzale, President of the Voluntary Carbon Markets Association said:

“The National Carbon Offset Standard is supposed to define the nature of carbon offsets for the voluntary carbon market, but uncertainty surrounding the standard has meant businesses and householders are not investing in Australian produced offsets.”

“This uncertainty is having a real impact on Australian businesses that deliver carbon reduction projects, and if allowed to continue will undermine the development of the jobs and skills needed for Australia to reduce emissions.”

“The situation is eroding consumer confidence in the voluntary action needed to reduce carbon emissions.”

“The industry is keen to play a constructive role in solving the problems with the National Carbon Offsetting Standard, but action needs to be taken swiftly.”

“The straightforward solution is for the Federal Government to ensure voluntary action is counted in addition to mandated targets. It can do this by immediately retiring a Kyoto unit (AAU) for each tonne of voluntary carbon abatement from GreenPower and other appropriate domestic abatement projects, including Greenhouse Friendly projects.”

“This approach would provide for a smoother transition from the Greenhouse Friendly Program to the National Carbon Offset Standard.”

“Further industry consultation is needed to iron out implementation problems with the NCOS. We have written to Minister Wong requesting a meeting to discuss solutions further.”

The Voluntary Carbon Markets Association is an independent, non-profit organisation working to promote a vibrant and rigorous voluntary carbon market. We represent all aspects of the voluntary carbon market including businesses and local governments purchasing carbon abatement, carbon offset providers, carbon accountants and academic institutions.

For further comment, contact:

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