

Monday, 26 July, 2010

Press Release: Attention Political, Resource & Environment Reporters

Vic Govt Climate Plan Now Needs Federal Action on Offsets

Today the Victorian Government released its Climate Change White Paper with a target to cut greenhouse emissions by 20 per cent (from 2000 levels) by 2020. The Voluntary Carbon Markets Association (VCMA) commends this target, which will lay a critical foundation for transitioning Victoria to an innovative, low-carbon economy.

The VCMA welcomes the Victorian Government's vehicle registration offset scheme, which will encourage household and fleet vehicle owners to offset vehicle emissions at the time of registration.

However, to ensure this measure is effective in growing the voluntary carbon market in Victoria and Australia, the VCMA calls upon the Federal Government to fix the troubled National Carbon Offset Standard (NCOS).

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

"We welcome the Victorian Government's leadership on climate change action. The vehicle registration offset scheme has real potential to deliver new jobs and investment in the voluntary carbon industry in this State."

"For Victorian offset providers and carbon abatement projects to fully benefit from the State Government plan, the Federal Government now needs to ensure voluntary action is counted in addition to national mandated targets."

"We'd like to see the major parties in the Federal election commit to retiring Kyoto units so that voluntary action by households, businesses and local governments is properly recognised in any greenhouse reduction initiative."

Caroline Bayliss, Chair of the VCMA Policy Committee said:

"The Victorian scheme provides a simple mechanism for the community to take action on climate change – it is now crucial the Federal Government also recognises community efforts."

"By retiring Kyoto Units and fixing the flawed National Carbon Offset Standard, the Federal Government can give the community confidence that its actions will make a difference in reducing global emissions. This will build community support for action on climate change, like participation in the Victorian Government's vehicle offset scheme."

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:

Ric Brazzale, President, Voluntary Carbon Markets Association ph: 0419 522 659

Caroline Bayliss, Chair VCMA Policy Committee ph: 0408 142 050