



**THE HON GREG COMBET AM MP  
Parliamentary Secretary for Climate Change**

**JAMES BIDGOOD  
Member for Dawson**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

GC 05/09

18 May 2009

**RUDD GOVERNMENT TAKING ACTION IN MACKAY TO COMBAT CLIMATE  
CHANGE AND SUPPORT JOBS**

Greg Combet, Parliamentary Secretary for Climate Change, and James Bidgood, Member for Dawson, today held discussion with local workers, businesses and community groups about the Rudd Government's climate change agenda.

"The people of Mackay recognise that Australia must play its part on combating climate change but we also want to ensure that we protect our local jobs and industries in doing so," said Mr Bidgood.

"James Bidgood has been a fantastic representative for all interests in Mackay when it comes to the Government's actions on climate change and its support for local jobs. He has made it very clear to me that he wants to see local jobs in the area supported while also ensuring that we deal with one of the most significant environmental challenges we face," said Mr Combet.

"To help combat the effects of climate change the Rudd Government is taking a range of actions to reduce Australia's greenhouse gas emissions," said Mr Combet.

Mr Combet and Mr Bidgood visited the Mackay Sugar Racecourse Mill to discuss with the owners and workers the Government's Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS).

"Recently announced changes to the CPRS will help further support local jobs and assist industries make the transition through to a low carbon economy, which is vital for the Mackay and the local region," said Mr Combet.

The new measures include:

- Delaying the start of the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme by one year to help Australian companies manage the impacts of the global recession;
- Supporting those businesses and industries produce internationally traded goods through a Global Recession Buffer for Emissions Intensive Trade Exposed Industries. This means that the most exposed businesses will receive at the start of the scheme up to 94.5 per cent of their required permits free of charge;
- A one year fixed price phase will apply between 1 July 2011 and 30 June 2012. During the fixed price phase, each carbon pollution permit will cost \$10. From 1 July

2012, businesses covered by the scheme will need to purchase permits at the prevailing market price;

- Exempting legacy emissions created by Landfill Waste from the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme to alleviate the burden on local councils and save ratepayers; and
- \$200 million for eligible businesses to undertake energy efficiency measures in 2009-10 as part of the Climate Change Action Fund.

Mr Bidgood said “I have lobbied hard within the Government for increased support for our local industries and was glad to see the changes that have been announced to the CPRS. This will allow Mackay to play its role in combating climate change while ensuring our local economy and jobs continue to grow.”

“I also note the significant investments that have been made by the Government in the Budget and Stimulus Packages and which are helping our community deal with the devastating effects of the global economic crisis,” said Mr Bidgood.

During the visit Mr Combet and Mr Bidgood also held a luncheon with local workers and unions, representatives from the mining, sugar cane and tourism industries, and community group to discuss the issue of climate change and the Government’s policies.

-----

**Media Contact:** Rod Hilton (Greg Combet) – 0458 276 619  
Andrea Pozza (James Bidgood) – 0431 891 151

For more information on the Government’s Climate Change Agenda please visit [www.climatechange.gov.au](http://www.climatechange.gov.au)