



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

**KIRSTEN LIVERMORE
Member for Capricornia**

MEDIA RELEASE

GC 06/09

19 May 2009

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

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

"The people of Rockhampton 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 Ms Livermore.

"Kirsten Livermore has been a wonderful representative for her electorate when it comes to the Government's actions on climate change and its support for local jobs. She has been constantly in my ear about ensuring that the Government provides proper support for local industries and jobs while we go about combating the most significant environmental challenge our country has ever faced," 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 Ms Livermore visited local industries to discuss the Government's policies and also attended a dinner hosted by the Queensland Resources Council to discuss concerns of local mining companies.

Mr Combet said that he was continuing discussions with the coal mining industry to discuss their concerns. The Government has already outlined \$750 million in assistance for the coal industry.

Mr Combet noted that treasury modelling indicates that coal mining operations, as well as other carbon intensive industries, will continue to grow strongly in the future under the 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 Rockhampton 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.

Ms Livermore said “I have been working hard with the Minister and Parliamentary Secretary to ensure that the Government takes account of the concerns of our local businesses and industries. Therefore I was very happy to see the changes that have been announced to the CPRS. This will allow our local industries and jobs to continue to prosper while also ensuring we play our part in Australia’s efforts to deal with climate change.”

“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 Ms Livermore.

Media Contact: Rod Hilton (Greg Combet) – 0458 276 619
Brad Pfeffer (Kirsten Livermore) – 0439 741 155

For more information on the Government’s Climate Change Agenda please visit www.climatechange.gov.au