



**Media release: Wednesday 7 November 2007**

## **Call to sign-up to pledges**

Environment Business Australia (EBA) today released an open letter that has been sent to both the Liberal and Labor parties.

EBA's open letter contains seven key climate change and clean energy actions. It has asked each party to indicate by 16 November, which ones they would commit to if they formed the next government.

EBA chief executive Fiona Wain said that action on climate change needs to have bi-partisan support and be made a national priority.

Ms Wain said, "Urgent, bi-partisan action is needed. Business needs clear policies and strategies so it can get on with making a sensible transition to an economy which must reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

"Australia can lead the way in showing how an energy intensive economy can be more efficient, and use cleaner and renewable sources of energy.

"There is also a huge opportunity to take advantage of the growing \$750 billion environmental industry market which is expected to double in the next decade.

The key environmental pledges contained in the open letter include:

- Fast-tracking a national greenhouse gas emissions trading scheme
- Adopting a mandatory national targets for greenhouse gas cuts – 20% by 2020; 60% by 2050
- Ratifying the Kyoto Protocol
- Federal funding initiatives

A full copy of the open letter is attached.

The pledges allow the parties the option to sign up to some specific features within each key action. For example EBA believes that revenue from the auction of greenhouse gas permits should be specifically put towards energy efficiency, clean and renewable energy, accelerated depreciation and plant retrofit, programmes like assistance with energy costs for households, and the rapid deployment of smarter and more efficient technologies.

"Earlier this week an international survey of 22,000 people<sup>1</sup> in 21 countries, including Australia, people indicated their support for action to tackle climate change; the survey clearly showed that opinions of energy taxes would change if money was used for specific things like energy efficiency or the development of renewables. EBA agrees that revenue from emissions trading or any future carbon tax should be applied to specific programmes", said Ms Wain.

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**For further information contact:**

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<sup>1</sup> Globescan poll for BBC ([http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/shared/bsp/hi/pdfs/02\\_11\\_07bbcclimatesurvey.pdf](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/shared/bsp/hi/pdfs/02_11_07bbcclimatesurvey.pdf))

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### ***About Environment Business Australia***

Environment Business Australia is a business think tank and advocacy group promoting commercial solutions to environmental challenges. The peak industry body pushes for far-reaching policies to help shape the marketplace for clean and efficient technologies and smart systems and ideas.

For a full list of member companies and further information visit

**[www.environmentbusiness.com.au](http://www.environmentbusiness.com.au)**