

## **Greenhouse emissions reporting begins on 1 July**

From 1 July 2008 businesses emitting large amounts of greenhouse gases will be required to monitor and measure the emissions ahead of reporting them to the Government by October 2009. Climate Change Minister Penny Wong says the requirements are part of Australia's new National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting System. "The National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting System will be an important part of our efforts to tackle climate change as we move to establish an emissions trading scheme," says Wong. "This new system will play an important role by more precisely quantifying the greenhouse gases Australia produces. It will also, for the first time, provide robust and comparable information to the public on the greenhouse and energy profiles of Australia's large corporations," adds Wong. From 1 July, corporate groups that emit 125 kilotonnes or more of greenhouse gases each year, or produce or consume 500 terajoules or more of energy, will be required to collect data to meet annual reporting requirements. Corporations controlling facilities that emit more than 25 kilotonnes of greenhouse gases, or use or produce 100 terajoules or more of energy, will also need to collect data, according to the Government. While the Act governing the system comes into effect on 1 July 2008, Wong says that relevant corporations will have until 31 August 2009 to apply to register under the scheme, and until 31 October 2009 to submit their first annual greenhouse and energy report. "Many of these corporations already report their emissions and energy use to meet investor demands under existing programs, or as part of a growing corporate commitment to social responsibility and sustainability," says Wong. "But others may be unsure as to whether or not they are covered by the system, and the Department of Climate Change will work closely with them to ensure they can comply," she adds. The Department of Climate Change has developed an online calculator to help businesses work out whether the system applies to them. The department will continue to run information sessions and provide guidance on using the online reporting system, along with a 'reporting hotline'. Meanwhile, Wong has released Australia's latest greenhouse emissions results which track Australia's progress towards its target under the Kyoto Protocol. "Australia's National Greenhouse Accounts show that Australia's emissions for 2006 and preliminary estimates of emissions in 2007 remain on track to meet our Kyoto target," says Wong. Australia's greenhouse emissions in 2007 are estimated to be 585 million tonnes or 106 per cent of 1990 levels.

[Source: esaa news]